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# TIME

## WHO WAS JESUS?

A startling new movie raises an age-old question



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# LOOK MOM

All the News  
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## Survey Finds Sharp Drop In Tooth Decay in Young

By WARREN E. LEARY  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 21 — Half the nation's schoolchildren have no cavities or other tooth decay in a continuation of gains that health officials say could mean the virtual end of dental disease as a major public health problem, a major Federal survey released today shows.

Experts credit widespread use of fluoride and high levels of dental care for the improvements seen in the survey, which was conducted in the 1986-1987 school year. The gains in reducing tooth

decay were first noted in the 1970's.

The survey of almost 40,000 children at 970 schools around the country was conducted by the National Institute of Dental Research. The findings indicate that tooth decay and cavities have declined at a dramatic rate over the last 15 years and that the decline is generally uniform throughout the nation.

**49.9% Had No Decay**

"This is remarkable, especially when you consider that almost all of their parents suffered tooth decay as children," said Dr. Harald Loe, director of the research.

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# TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

## COVER: Fury at an age-old question: Who was Jesus? 34

With angry protesters on the march, Hollywood is rushing Martin Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ* into theaters this week to let filmgoers decide for themselves. Sex scenes aside, the highly unconventional depiction raises complex issues about the life and identity of Jesus. Puzzles about the Nazarene's reality tantalize Christians and non-Christians alike—and have intrigued New Testament experts and divided churches throughout the 20th century. See RELIGION.



## OLYMPICS: The athletes set their sights on Seoul 48

In the pool, at the track, in the weightroom and on horseback, hopeful Olympians have been getting ready—straining for two weeks of fame after four years of obscurity. In a special photo essay, TIME's Neil Leifer captures American competitors Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Greg Louganis, Carl Lewis and others shaping up for the XXIV Summer Olympiad.



### 14 Nation

A battle over integrated housing engulfs Yonkers, N.Y.  
► Reagan plays political hatchet man. ► Worries about the weather.

### 65 Health & Fitness

Condom makers tap into the growing fear of disease and find a lucrative female market.  
► A contraceptive device for women.

### 22 World

The new realities in the Middle East after King Hussein's bold move.  
► Why the Palestinian uprising continues.  
► Japan and blacks.

### 68 Cinema

*Tucker*, about a cock-eyed optimist who invented a dream of a car, is a winner for Francis Coppola and a star vehicle for Jeff Bridges.

### 28 Economy & Business

The white-collar crime wave is spurring a cleanup operation.  
► How to rob banks without a gun. ► Going after the trade gap.

### 74 Video

Hollywood writers end a 22-week strike, but the fall TV season will be so late that the networks fear losing still more viewers.

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Cover:  
Designed by  
Tom Bentkowski

Composite portrait of Jesus, including images courtesy: Scala/Art Resource, N.Y.; Aldo Durazzi © 1966 Time-Life Books, Inc.; Erich Lessing © 1964 Time-Life Books, Inc.; The Bettmann Archive; Curtis Hooper/LIFE; Aldo Durazzi/LIFE

## A Letter from the Publisher



Mosaic, Sant' Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna



Mosaic, Sant' Apollinare in Classe, Ravenna



Painting, John Metropolit, 14th century



Byzantine mosaic, Hagia Sophia, Istanbul



Mosaic, Daphni, Greece, c. 1080



Mosaic, Basilica of San Marco, Venice



Painting, Antonello da Messina, c. 1470



Engraving, Martin Schongauer, 15th century



Painting, Georges Rouault, 1905



Mosaic, Sant' Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna



Tapestry, Graham Sutherland, Coventry



Mosaic, Cathedral of Monreale, Sicily



Painting, Curtis Hooper, 1980s



Painting, Jan Gossaert, c. 1510



Stained-glass window, possibly made for Charlemagne



Mosaic, Daphni, Greece, c. 1080



Painting, Andrea del Sarto, Florence



Fresco, San Clemente, Tahull, Spain, 12th century



Stained-glass window, possibly made for Charlemagne



Painting, Antonello da Messina, c. 1470



Engraving, Martin Schongauer, 15th century



Mosaic, Archbishop's Palace, Ravenna, c. 500



Painting, Jan Gossaert, c. 1510



Stained-glass window, possibly made for Charlemagne



Mosaic, Cathedral of Monreale, Sicily



Mosaic, Cathedral of Monreale, Sicily



Mosaic, Sant' Apollinare in Classe, Ravenna



Mosaic, Daphni, Greece, c. 1080



Mosaic, Sant' Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna



Painting, John Metropolit, 14th century

This week marks the 16th time that Jesus has appeared on the cover of TIME. It seemed appropriate to Art Director Rudy Hoglund that this portrait should draw upon the wealth of historical material depicting the face of Christ. The resulting cover is composed of details from 17 images of Jesus. They range from a 6th century Italian mosaic to stained glass that was possibly crafted for the Emperor Charlemagne to a contemporary portrait by Englishman Curtis Hooper based on the Shroud of Turin. "Different cultures in different periods of history have had various notions of what Jesus looked like," says Hoglund. "I wanted to reflect this on the cover." Linda Freeman.

Hoglund's assistant, searched art-history archives and came up with more than 100 prospective images for the project. Tom Bentkowski, LIFE magazine's director of design, conceived the idea for the composite portrait and then constructed it. At left is the gallery from which the assembled image of Jesus was drawn. The pictures are arranged to serve as a key to the cover portrait; a detail from the mosaic in the upper left corner was used for the upper left part of the composite, and so on.

*Robert L. Miller*

**WHO WAS JESUS?**  
A startling new movie raises an age-old question

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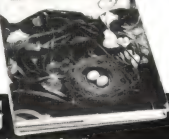
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## Letters

### Democratic Duo

To the Editors:

I disagree with your cover line "The Odd Couple" [NATION, July 25]. Michael Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen are very fine men and will make a wonderful pair as President and Vice President.

Ellisann Mickelson  
Mount Vernon, Wash.



Dukakis made a mistake in selecting Bentsen as his running mate. Dukakis is against *contra* aid and for gun control, but Bentsen is for *contra* aid and against gun control. The presidential and vice-presidential candidates should agree on basic issues before the ticket is chosen.

David Wooley  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

It seems Dukakis is telling the American people he is doing everything he can to win, and that includes selling out his ideals by selecting a running mate with so many opposing stands on key issues.

Jeff D. Brooks  
Rockport, Mass.

The ticket of Dukakis and Bentsen is the same old stuff. It is too bad Americans don't see the red blood under a different skin color and elect someone—like Jesse Jackson—who is real, for a change.

Karl V. Holmquist  
Forks, Wash.

George Bush should be proud. In effect, the Democrats will be running a triumvirate against him—Dukakis, Bentsen and Jackson.

Routh T. Wilby  
Franklin, La.

Regarding Dukakis, Bentsen and Jackson: two is a couple; three is a crowd.

Claude Wachter  
New York City

When you refer to Lloyd Bentsen's wife B.A. as belonging to the "rolling-bandage school of Senate wives," you de-

mean her activities as a volunteer. This is a cheap shot at the millions of American men, women and children who contribute their time in a volunteer structure unique to this country. Many participants must have the same organizational and managerial skills that are used to run businesses and governments effectively.

Gerald D. Levy  
Wilton, Conn.

How can Dukakis' slogan "More Jobs" bode well for the U.S. manufacturing industry when he has been using the same rusty snowblower for 25 years?

Henry L. Storminger  
Somers, N.Y.

### Atlanta Risen

You will undoubtedly have a heavy mailbag concerning Calvin Trillin's memories and rediscovery of Atlanta [NATION, July 25]. Trillin, as usual, does his wonderful tongue-in-cheek description with overtones of admiration and respect. The article was hilarious.

Russell H. Anderson  
Torrington, Conn.

It is too bad that as Atlanta presses on to become the "World's Next Great City," it has "shaken off the dust of Georgia." While it is true that the South has problems with poverty, racism and poor educational systems, these difficulties are being overcome. What the region also has is a unique history and culture that give it a character unlike that of any other part of the U.S. Unfortunately, Atlanta is casting off its Southern charm for a blandness that is desired by the business world.

Christopher Graney  
Auburn, Ala.

Atlanta is big, bustling, overcrowded and too uncaring now. But when I grew up there, it was manageable and safe. It could be great again if we started sending its transplanted Yankees back up North.

Shelma Chaffin  
Huntsville, Ala.

### Fitness Fetish

Describing Americans who are focused on keeping fit as "healthy worrywarts" [HEALTH & FITNESS, July 25] is unfair. Most people observe technical guidelines on how to care for their automobiles in order to obtain the highest and most reliable performance. There is comparable, scientifically based advice for one's body. Individuals who follow such recommendations are simply maximizing the amount of time that their bodies will allow them to experience life fully.

Clee and Mary Sealing  
Fruita, Colo.

A piece of cake has become "decadent," ice cream is "sinfully rich," and people do penance in modern-day equivalents



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## Letters

of medieval torture chambers like Nautilus gyms to atone for their perceived failings. The real sin is self-absorption. We labor relentlessly to preserve and improve our physical shells at the price of our souls. The blaring music of an aerobics class drowns out the inner lament for meaning, a sense of purpose and peace in our lives.

Kimberly Antal  
Longmeadow, Mass.

We are a nation of neurotics about our health because we are so well informed on every possible and even improbable illness. There really is something valid in the old adage "What you don't know won't hurt you."

Joan McIntosh  
Norman, Okla.

## Different Defense Measures

It is ridiculous to point out, as you do in your article on China's army [WORLD, July 11], that the U.S. spends 27% of its national budget on the military, while the People's Republic spends only 8.5%. It is an economic absurdity to compare a socialist state's expenditures (on a percentage basis) with those of a market-driven economy. Of course defense outlays of the P.R.C. are a smaller percentage of total government spending than those of the U.S. Virtually all productive assets are owned by the P.R.C.'s Marxist-Leninist government. The proper measure is a percentage of gross national product.

Frank N. Wilner  
Alexandria, Va.

TIME's comparison was not the best one. If defense outlays are gauged as a percentage of GNP, then in 1985 the U.S. expenditure was 6.6%, and China's was 6.7%. China's military portion of GNP has been declining since 1979, when it was 12%, while the U.S.'s has risen from 4.9%.

## Living a Myth?

After reading "The Gods Are Crazy," the takeoff on mythology expert Joseph Campbell's TV series on the power of myth [ESSAY, July 18], I concluded that your couch-potato writer's brain must have been mashed. He stripped away the rich spirituality and chopped apart the deep insights that Campbell offered, leaving TIME's readers with a halfhearted spoof on what it means to live mythologically.

Mary E. Sheehan  
Cincinnati

## No-Shows for Israel

I have just returned from a trip to Israel and read your article on the decline in the number of travelers visiting that country [LIVING, July 25]. One of our Israeli tour guides said, "Please do just one thing: Go home and tell your friends that it is safe here and that we need their tourism." The American media emphasize the violence too much. We drove through the

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## Letters

West Bank and went to Arab mosques and the Arab market in Jerusalem. We had no problems at all.

Melinda Mechur  
Rochester

My family and I had made plans to vacation in Israel this summer, but we canceled them when we saw how badly the Israelis were acting toward the Palestinians. We did this for moral reasons, not because we were afraid of civil unrest. We will continue to boycott Israel until it begins to treat the Palestinians with the necessary compassion.

Cynthia F. Murphy  
Liberty, Mo.

### Bennett's Style

Nothing that Education Secretary William Bennett says can amaze me anymore (PROFILE, July 18). During his tenure, my sensibilities have been dulled by his convoluted rhetoric laced with elitism and contradiction. Earlier this year, Bennett maintained that "choices about which particular books students should read are obviously decisions best left to individual schools." Yet when Stanford's faculty senate voted to revise the canon for a Western-culture course, Bennett pretentiously criticized the university for exercising its curricular autonomy.

Julie Cheville  
Ames, Iowa

Quick—Bennett for President, before it's too late.

Dorothy Thomas  
Roswell, Ga.

I was much impressed with Bennett's abilities, but they are not in the field of education. His talents lie in getting the attention of the media, not in education.

Wes Howard  
Kearns, Utah

### Politics, Mexican Fashion

With disgust and shame for what is happening in my country, I must join rightist politician Manuel Clouthier in denouncing the fraudulent outcome of the Mexican presidential election (WORLD, July 25). The Institutional Revolutionary Party has not "won" past elections. It has cheated its way through them by stuffing or stealing ballot boxes, registration-list "irregularities," multiple voting, threats, bribery and all sorts of illegal tactics that have been common practice for years. We Mexicans are hungry for fairness and are sick of corruption, bad administration and the lack of justice.

Guadalupe Diaz-Ceballos Compeán  
Mexico City

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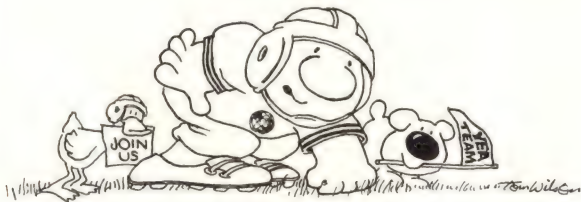


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## American Scene

### In Florida: The Rogues of Tabloid Valley

Unlike its ritzy neighbors, Palm Beach and Boca Raton, Lantana is a sleepy, unassuming little town on Florida's east coast. On closer inspection, however, the place has subtle marks of distinction. Like Dawn's News & Smoke Shop, where the daily selection of newspapers from around the world rivals that of any five-star hotel in London, New York City or Tokyo. The papers are bought and avidly read by a rambunctious colony of 200-plus British and Commonwealth expatriates who make their homes in Lantana and the surrounding area.

These are no ordinary immigrants to sun-baked Florida. They are top tabloid journalists from Fleet Street—most of them Englishmen, Scots, Australians and Canadians—lured to the U.S. by the inflated salaries at the Lantana-based *National Enquirer*. (Starting pay for a reporter: \$50,000 a year, with no experience required, except an apparent aptitude for spying on the celebrity species.) The Fleet Streeters began arriving in droves during the 1970s, enough of them to field cricket games, fill dart rooms and prompt some local eateries to include bangers and mash on their menus. Their presence in turn encouraged other tabloids to set up shop nearby—the *Globe*, the *National Examiner*, the *Sun* and the *Weekly World News* (son of *Enquirer*, to the irreverent)—transforming Lantana and its environs into the tabloid capital of America.

"The Brits were kids in a candy store," says Malcolm Balfour, a South African by birth and former *Enquirer* editor who now works out of Lantana for the New York *Post* and *Bild Zeitung*, a West German daily. "The *Enquirer* meant plastic cards that would take you to the best hotels in the world." *Enquirer* Owner Generoso Pope Jr. was never satisfied with his staff and fired reporters often. Nonetheless, seduced by the sunshine, many of the dismissed staffers stayed on in the Lantana area, working as free-lancers for other tabloids or mass-circulation dailies abroad. Some found lucrative opportunities outside the tabs. Mike Irish launched a real estate company: Len Stone founded Mr. L's Men's Boutique, a clothing store.

Come Friday nights, the boisterous gang congregates at the neighboring bars, the Hawaiian, the Whistle Stop or the

Red Lion (a pseudo publ.) to swap leg-pulling tales and practice one-upmanship by inventing sidesplitter headlines. Billy Burt, editor of the *Examiner*, proffers the classic example of HEADLESS BODY IN TOPLESS BAR as the quintessence of a tabloid art form. Balfour opts for convoluted: THE TOASTER POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL or, better, THE DOG THAT SHOT ITS OWNER. All voice serious concern that unimaginative headlines—GIRL, 11, BE-

facéd), he has been reincarnated as the editor of the *Get Rich News*, the valley's latest contribution to supermarket racks. Hogan's favorite sidesplitter is a simple story titled "X Rays Can Be Dangerous," about an X-ray machine with loose hinges that collapsed on a patient and killed him.

Balfour, once Hogan's editor at the *Enquirer*, asks him, "Remember when I sent you on the bread-and-water bit?" Hogan's ice-blue eyes glisten as he reinforces himself with a Guinness and recalls the caper: "I was a proper bum, with mud on me, crummy clothes, tacky shoes. In East Hampton [N.Y.], I went to a swank estate, and the maid pulled a gun on me the size of aowitz." Balfour adds, "The White House turned him away. Gracie Mansion told him they didn't give out bread and water." Hogan whispers, "Only Burt Reynolds' dad, in Jupiter [Fla.], gave me a meal." Then there was the time Hogan donned a gorilla costume and checked into an empty cage at the Baltimore Zoo, with the help of authorities. Sufficiently sauced, Hogan nearly suffocated under the suit, but no one would pay attention to him until he hurled bananas at the crowd. Finally, a kid screamed, "Mommy, a blue-eyed gorilla!" and the crowd recognized that it was looking at no ordinary gorilla. The *Enquirer* photog went to work documenting the event.

Mike McDonough, a Lantana free-lancer, counters by recalling the night he watched an intrepid Brit scale the

façade of a hotel in Freeport, the Bahamas, to bang on Howard Hughes' window. "That is the closest anyone ever came [to Hughes]," he claims proudly. Ace Tab Photog Jimmy Leggett, a wiry Scot, remembers a "scheme to drill a hole down into Hughes' coffin to get a picture of his face." Another plot, in the '60s, involved renting a submarine to surprise Jackie Kennedy and little Caroline yachting in the Mediterranean. Leggett admits with a wink, "Neither plan made it past the second glass of ale." Balfour once sent a reporter to find paradise. The intrepid investigator rang up \$10,000 on his expense account by visiting Tahiti, Hawaii, Uganda and Scandinavia. Finally, he found a remote island. Unfortunately, the paradise prohibited tourists, and the story was killed. "Once we had so many Brits



Uninhibited by journalistic utopianism, the tabloid gang relaxes

COMES GRANDMOTHER—are replacing zany eye-catchers—CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS USED MAP PREPARED BY SPACE ALIENS—that reflect the best work of twisted minds. Ex-Fleet Streeter Sheila O'Donovan, known to *Examiner* readers as Lovelorn Columnist Sheila Wood, praises what she considers America's restrained tabloid sensibility. She quit a Hong Kong tabloid in protest after the editors put a large blob on the front page with the headline 20 CARS CRUSH CRAWLING CRIPPLE.

The most frequently gossiped about reporter in Tabloid Valley is Brian Hogan, a grizzled Aussie with Peter O'Toole eyes and a seemingly infinite capacity to imbibe. Once a renowned master of stunt journalism ("The reporter is the catalyst for the story," explains Hogan, straight-

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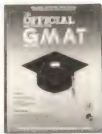
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Three.

## American Scene

on the road that three reporters, all sent by different editors, were bunked at the same first-class hotel in Hong Kong," recalls Burt.

When it comes to capers, Balfour cheerfully claims responsibility for THE DOG THAT REFUSED TO DIE. An abandoned dog in Hannibal, Mo., had survived being tied to a tree for three weeks by eating the bark. The local pound tried to put the dog down with a lethal injection. The animal was later found twitching in a heap of dead dogs, and the pound injected it again. When the *Enquirer* heard the story, it ran a contest to save the dog. "We brought him to Lantana and put him in a motel room, but he destroyed it by eating all the furniture," says Balfour.

"Coming from Fleet Street, we didn't think anything was extraordinary," laughs Burt. "It was the American journalists who thought we were unusual. Most of them are corrupted by journalism school into dreary, humorless utopians out to save the world. They are Puritans who should stay on Plymouth Rock. Ghosts? The occult? We don't say these stories are true: we just report them." The methods tabloids use to substantiate their sometimes unlikely stories are often ingenious. To prove UFOs have been frolicking in Wisconsin, reporters will wrangle a policeman or pilot to say "Sure." And in a pinch, some editors have been known to put an authority on a subject in Eastern Europe to elude verification.

The crowd agrees that Fleet Streeters, able to weasel their way into anything, are the best practitioners of stake-out journalism. "We don't take no for an answer," says David Wright, an Englishman who is the *Enquirer's* current ace reporter. Wright once posed as a florist's messenger, delivering roses to Megan Marshack, the staffer who had been with Nelson Rockefeller when he died and was holed up in her apartment trying to avoid the press. "I nearly had to buy the truck to get the setup right," he recalls. John Blackburn, an American who at one time was a rewrite man for the tabs, agrees that the "Brits have guts. They do things Americans wouldn't do, like taking a picture off a mantelpiece when there's been a death in the family." But Hogan defends his kind. "Listen, mate. When a world-class story in Monaco erupts, the Brits will still be sent. They charm the pants off people with their velvety lilt."

Many of the Fleet Streeters have created their own free-lance agencies so they can work from their home offices. "Celbs prefer phoners," says Neil Blin-cow, ex-columnist for the *Enquirer*, now owner and operator of the Palm Beach Press. "They don't have to get dolled up, and if the interview gets nasty, they can cut you off." Boutique Owner Stone marvels at his chums' newfound nesting instincts. "Boy, our crowd has matured," he says. "Thank God, on a full moon we still break out."

—By Martha Smiglis

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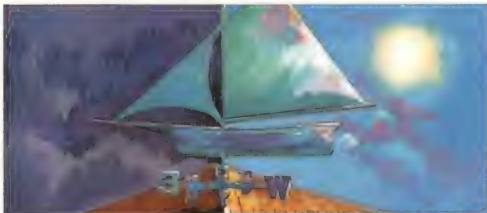
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Concrete and fences surround a housing project in a black neighborhood in Yonkers



Protesters outside the council meeting demand

## Nation

TIME/AUGUST 15, 1988

# A House Divided

*Yonkers, N. Y., becomes a symbol of white resistance to integration*

In the long struggle against racial discrimination in America, progress has been vast, if uneven and too slow. Barriers against equal access to public accommodations have fallen, voting rights of all citizens have been guaranteed, and blacks have assumed impressive political power in cities and state legislatures. Job opportunities have opened, and the once violent outcry against school desegregation has been muted. But the more intimate, elemental question of whether blacks can live beside whites has remained volatile, pitting neighbors against neighbors, the courts against communities, and a sense of social fairness against the besieged mentality of those who fear change.

The sad fact is that two decades after the Kerner Commission warned that the U.S. was "moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal," the nation remains dismayingly segregated in its housing patterns. A recent study by the Urban Institute, a Washington think tank, found that 57% of American whites live in census tracts that are more than 99% white and nearly a third of all blacks live in neighborhoods

that are more than 90% black. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that 2 million people encounter racial discrimination in housing every year. Last week the Senate passed a new, tougher Fair Housing Act that will finally make it easier for the Federal Government to assist victims of discrimination in suing landlords and real estate agents who block their access to housing.

Nowhere has the shifting frontier of the civil rights struggle been more apparent than in Yonkers, a racially divided blue-collar suburb of New York City. Last week Leonard Sand, a soft-spoken, patient federal judge, got fed up with that city's refusal over three years to carry out his orders to place public housing in its white neighborhoods. Gazing down sternly from his bench in Manhattan at four Yonkers councilmen, the jurist delivered a tongue-lashing. "What we're clearly confronted with is a total breakdown of any sense of responsibility," he charged. "What we have here is a competition to see... who can be the biggest political martyr. There does have to come a mo-

ment of truth, a moment when the city of Yonkers seeks not to become a national symbol of defiance to civil rights."

With that, Judge Sand declared Yonkers in contempt of court for refusing to obey his order to help private developers build 800 units of moderate-income housing. The judge began levying fines that doubled daily against the city and would leave it bankrupt later this month. Yonkers promptly lost its already poor bond rating, rendering it unable to borrow. Fines of \$500 a day were imposed on the recalcitrant councilmen.

Situated immediately north of New York City's poor and crime-plagued borough of the Bronx, Yonkers (pop. 191,000) is divided into a predominantly black and Hispanic western section and white eastern neighborhoods. In December 1980, Jimmy Carter's Justice Department charged that both the Yonkers school board and its city council had deliberately discriminated against its minority residents (now 19% of the population), a finding based on a well-documented record going back nearly 40 years. The suit was pressed by the Reagan





that the judge's plan be rejected



A white neighborhood near the proposed site of a low-income housing development

Administration, which led to Judge Sand's orders in November 1985 for both local bodies to produce desegregation plans. Yonkers thus became the first case in which the Justice Department charged that school and housing discrimination were intertwined and had to be dealt with concurrently.

The school board responded positively, creating a system of academically enriched "magnet" schools and the voluntary busing of some 10,000 of the district's 18,000 students. Now all but one of the city's 30 schools are racially integrated. But the Yonkers city government balked. By then it had already created 42 public-assistance projects, all but three of them in black neighborhoods. Instead of proposing a list of sites for similar housing in the white section, as Sand had directed, the city merely promised not to discriminate in the future.

The judge then drew on Justice Department proposals to order his own housing plan into effect. He directed Yonkers to build 200 units of low-income public housing on seven east-side sites and to stimulate the private development of federally subsidized rental housing for families with incomes of between \$15,000 and \$32,000. The seven-member council reluctantly agreed to move ahead on the 200 units, selecting sites for low-level town-house dwellings.

But when, on July 26, Sand ordered the council to approve a package of zoning changes and tax-abatement incentives for the 800 moderate-income units, resistance peaked among white residents. Many had fled the Bronx to escape the deterioration of what were once tranquil neighborhoods. Their life savings were invested in their new homes, which they now saw as threatened.

Moreover, white residents considered

themselves unfairly targeted by the Justice Department and the judge. Yonkers already encompasses 40% of the public housing in Westchester County. Smaller, more affluent neighboring suburbs have no public housing at all and are nearly lily-white. "If Yonkers had never created housing for its poor, it wouldn't be in this situation," argues Peter Salins, chairman of the department of urban affairs at New York City's Hunter College. Nationwide, many cities tear down slums and build public housing on the same segregated sites. Why, residents ask, should Yonkers be punished for doing this too?

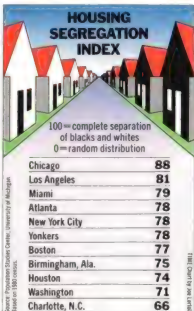
Such feelings led to an emotional city

council meeting last week to consider Sand's order. Democratic Mayor Nicholas Wasicco and two councilmen decided to vote for the court's housing plan rather than see Yonkers go bankrupt. They were overridden by a four-man majority, led by Republican Vice Mayor Henry Spallone, who called the Federal Government "a slumlord" and the judge's plan "slow poison." Explained Conservative Councilman Edward Fagan: "The people wanted this act of defiance."

While Sand gave the four holdouts until Aug. 10 to reverse their negative votes or face jail terms, Yonkers appealed the contempt finding to higher courts. Invited by the judge to remove the rebellious officials, New York Governor Mario Cuomo instead deferred to the state's Emergency Financial Control Board, an agency that oversees Yonkers' shaky finances. Cuomo further muddied the waters by observing that Yonkers officials might be able to persuade Judge Sand to modify his ruling. Grandstanding politicians in the Yonkers stalemate could find a guiding example of courageous leadership in Boston. Neighborhood resistance to the integration of public projects in Irish South Boston is at least as intense as that in the New York suburb. Mayor Ray Flynn, who lives in Southie, began his political career in the mid-1970s as a community leader in the disastrous fight against school desegregation. But now Flynn is working with black and white community groups and federal officials to resolve rather than raise conflict. Last month two black families became the first in more than a decade to move into public housing in South Boston. Instead of protests designed to inflame passions, the initial move was preceded by prayer services encouraging goodwill, and it was completed in peace.

—By Ed Magrason

Reported by Janice C. Simpson/Yonkers



# Reagan: Part Fixer, Part Hatchet Man

*The ailing Bush campaign finally gets some help*



It was the sort of careless quip for which Ronald Reagan has become infamous. But while past remarks about nuking the Soviets or lying to Congress only caused embarrassment for the President, the tasteless wisecrack Reagan delivered last week ignited a minor political storm. At a White House press conference, a reporter working for a journal published by Extremist Lyndon LaRouche asked the President about rumors that Michael Dukakis once sought psychological help. "Look," Reagan replied with a smile. "I'm not going to pick on an invalid."

Although the President feebly apologized for his remark—"I think I was kidding, but I don't think I should have said what I said"—the incident gave yet another negative twist to the 1988 campaign. It also suggested that Reagan, unless carefully managed, could wind up hurting Vice President George Bush while trying to help in the fall election. Last week Reagan played politics in dealing with both the defense budget and the plant-closings bill. With Bush trailing by as much as 18 points in the polls, the campaign has plainly turned into a game of hardball, and the G.O.P.'s most seasoned

hurler has taken the mound. "Suddenly," said a Dukakis aide, "Reagan has been much more forcefully deployed."

For the past month, the LaRouche cult has been spreading allegations, totally unsubstantiated, that Dukakis received psychiatric treatment for depression after the death of his brother Stelian in 1973 and after his defeat for re-election as Governor in 1978. Most major news organizations refrained from trafficking in the speculation, but the issue was set simmering when Dukakis, citing personal privacy, balked at releasing his medical records. The Bush campaign then pointedly released a statement describing the Vice President's health as "excellent and vigorous." Bush operatives called news organizations, including TIME, to suggest follow-up stories about Dukakis' medical records or his brother's death. But what finally propelled the story onto Page One was Reagan's remark.

At a Boston news conference, Dukakis tried to quash the rumors once and for all. "I've never gotten any professional counseling," the Governor said. "I normally look to my family for support when I need it." Dukakis also seized the opportunity to rise magnanimously above Reagan. "We all occasionally misspeak," he



For Dukakis, an occasion to be magnanimous

said. "I don't really think the President had to apologize." Gerald Plotkin, Dukakis' doctor since 1971, released a detailed three-page report pronouncing Dukakis "in excellent health and physical shape." Wrote Plotkin: "He has had no psychological symptoms, complaints or treatment." Before the week ended, Dukakis set aside his resistance to releasing medical records and made known everything in Plotkin's file. All that remained unleased, Plotkin said, were prescriptions.

The controversy highlighted the strange social stigma that is still attached to psychological counseling. After terrible losses—first of a brother, then a public office—it would be understandable if Dukakis felt the need for some professional guidance. Seeking such help might, in fact, be a sign of emotional strength.

## While Back in Boston . . .

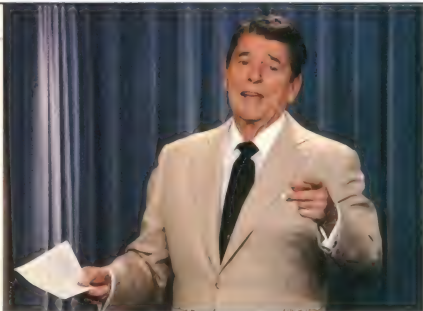
As Michael Dukakis visited New Jersey in late July and castigated the Reagan Administration for its failure to deal with ocean pollution, downpours in Massachusetts caused raw sewage to spill into Boston harbor. Beaches had to be closed, underscoring an issue the Republicans may soon be raising: the state's continued failure to clean up what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration calls the "most contaminated area we have found." Dukakis insists that he has been working hard to cope with a mess he inherited. "I didn't pollute Boston harbor, but I'm the guy cleaning it up," he has said. Yet environmentalists charge that he resisted complying with the Clean Water Act for so long that costs skyrocketed and federal funds dried up. Mike Deland, the Environmental Protection Agency's tough administrator for New England, says that by stalling, Massachusetts has made "the most expensive public-policy mistake in the history of New England."

Even Dukakis' adversaries do not claim that the harbor fiasco is the result of his insensitivity to the environment. "Dukakis is decent, honest, intelligent, and he believes in process," says former State Judge Paul Garrity, whose rulings eventually spurred the state to begin cleaning up. "But if the process isn't

there, he won't act." Alden Raine, Dukakis' director of economic development, excuses this lack of leadership: "To place the blame on the Governor is to assume that the other pieces were in place to clean up the harbor, which they were not."

The Boston harbor mess indeed predates Dukakis. A system largely designed in the 1950s to give rudimentary treatment to sewage simply could not cope with rapid growth in the Boston area, and the Metropolitan District Commission charged with maintaining the sewage system, was a nest of political cronies. "It was a place that employed everybody's cousin," recalls former Republican Governor Francis Sargent, early as 1972. Sargent had committed the state to cleaning the harbor, but had to fight a recalcitrant MDC every step of the way.

When Dukakis began his first term in 1975, there was little pressure to continue Sargent's efforts. The EPA, which turned the screws on other cities, was lax about Boston. It waited nearly five years before rejecting an application by the Dukakis Administration for a waiver from the Clean Water Act. "Dukakis wasn't there, but no one else was either," recalls Judge Garrity. As a result, the proportion of adequately treated sewage dropped from 4% to 2% between 1976 and 1980; in contrast, Illinois took advantage of 90% federal funding so that Chicago could increase its treated sewage from 8% to 100%.



From the President, a low delivery as the campaign turned into hardball

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, each year 15.5 million American adults visit mental-health-care practitioners; few are invalids.

Whether by accident or by design, Reagan has been cast as the Republicans' genial hatchet man. The invalid innuendo shows how effective he can be in raising an issue. In his opening address to the New Orleans convention next Monday, Reagan is expected to set the rhetorical tone with a frontal attack on Dukakis for being an old-fashioned liberal. While Bush—and just about any other American politician—may appear cruel attacking a rival, the charismatic Reagan has the power to excoriate his opponents without alienating the public.

Reagan also played the part of fixer last week, blurring the line between prin-

ciple and politics to assist the Vice President. Responding to entreaties from the Bush campaign, he declined to veto a trade bill requiring that manufacturers give workers 60 days' notice before shutting down a plant. Last May the President rejected an earlier version of the bill because it contained the plant-closing provision. At the Democratic Convention, one speaker after another brought up the plant-closing issue to paint Reagan as an enemy of workingmen and -women. With polls showing 80% of Americans favoring the bill, Republican Senators began to get nervous and told Reagan that the party was in a no-win situation. Although he called the bill "counterproductive" and "bad legislation," Reagan nevertheless agreed to let it become law. The day after relenting on plant closings, Reagan re-

sponded to Bush campaign requests by vetoing a \$299.5 billion Pentagon budget bill. The President denounced the "liberals in Congress" who he said were attempting to "erode our military strength." Actually, Reagan's Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci had helped work out the bipartisan measure.

The veto was primarily a Reagan-Bush effort to hit the Democrats where they might be vulnerable: their reputed softness on defense. Democrats returned fire. "Politics should not be the guide for nor the basis for national-security decisions," said Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "Now who do we work with to get an appropriations bill that can be signed into law? Do we go and confer with Robert Teeter, the pollster for the Vice President?"

The White House-Bush teamwork should intensify with James Baker assuming command of the Vice President's campaign. Last Friday Baker resigned as Treasury Secretary and former New Jersey Senator Nicholas Brady was named to replace him. "You've been a secret of our success," the President told Baker, who served as Reagan's 1980 campaign chairman and first White House chief of staff. "Now, Jim, go do it for George."

"Some of what we did this week was political," conceded a Reagan aide. "We ought to be making decisions to help Bush. There's no reason for us to be afraid to score political points." But there is some question as to just how valuable the President will be to Bush. "It's the old shadow problem," says Dukakis Spokesman Dayton Duncan. "Every time Reagan commands the news, it reinforces what everyone recognizes is one of George Bush's principal problems: he's not Ronald Reagan."

—By Jacob V. Lumar.

Reported by Michael Duffy with Dukakis and Nancy Traver/Washington

After four years of inactivity during Democrat Edward King's administration, Dukakis aides say, their boss began to turn the situation around when he returned to office in 1983. The legislature gave responsibility for sewers and water to a newly created water-resources authority. Although his supporters give Dukakis credit for pushing that legislation, others say the bill was going nowhere until Judge Garrity threatened a ban on new construction unless sewage treatment was upgraded. Says Douglas Foy, of the Conservation Law Foundation: "Dukakis was discreet to the point of being invisible."

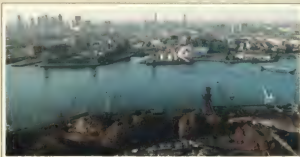
Instead of pushing hard for a cleanup, the Dukakis administration in 1984 requested a second waiver from the EPA. Dukakis' secretary of environmental affairs, James Hoyte, defends this action, claiming that EPA hinted that additional studies might change the agency's mind. But accord-

ing to EPA Administrator Deland, this application was a stalling device. "The waiver was designed for West Coast cities that discharged sewage into thousands of feet of water, and not for East Coast cities discharging into 30 or 40 feet," he says. The EPA denied the request. "Those were the critical years when time was lost," says Deland.

Massachusetts has finally begun construction of sewage-treatment facilities to be completed in 1999. Estimated costs:

\$3 billion to \$6 billion, to be financed largely by a quadrupling of the fees households pay for water. It didn't have to be this way, according to former Governor Sargent. Had Dukakis pursued a cleanup effort during his first term, Sargent asserts, the cost would have been under \$1 billion, the burden would have been borne by the Federal Government, and Boston would today be complying with the law today.

—By Eugene Linden/Boston



Boston harbor: "The most contaminated area we have found"

# More Worldly Than Wise

*Bush's foreign policy is prudent and mainstream*



While Ronald Reagan was strolling through Red Square with Mikhail Gorbachev in May, George Bush was at his summer home in Kennebunkport, Me. Asked his reaction, the Vice President was cautious, skeptical—not at all the gosh-golly cheerleader he is so often depicted to be. “The cold war isn’t over,” he warned. Bush’s praise for the President’s summiteering was so faint that his chief of staff, Craig Fuller, felt obliged to take Bush aside and ask if he realized that his dour comments would clash noticeably with White House jubilation. “I know,” Bush replied. “That’s okay.”

Reagan is at heart a romantic: Bush is not. The President has gone from a simplistic view of the “Evil Empire” to fantasies of a nuclear-free world. Bush wants to nudge perceptions of the Soviets back to a more pragmatic middle ground. Now that he has begun to spell out his own plans for diplomacy and defense, as he did in carefully wrought speeches in Chicago and Corpus Christi, Texas, last week, Bush is not only opening a crack of daylight between himself and Reagan, he is re-emerging as a paragon of what for much of the past decade was thought to be an endangered if not extinct species in the Grand Old Party—a moderate Republican.

The differences between the President and his would-be successor are matters of sensibility rather than substance, but they nonetheless signal that come January the Reagan Revolution could give way to the Bush Restoration, a return to power for the foreign-policy establishment. Brent Scowcroft, who served as Gerald Ford’s National Security Adviser, calls Bush a “Rockefeller Republican.” Scowcroft intends the label as high praise, but Republican conservatives have held it against Bush for years that he seemed to be from the same mold as Nelson Rockefeller, the champion of moderate Republicanism in the ‘60s.

Reagan envisions the Strategic Defense Initiative as an impregnable, invulnerable shield that will end forever the specter of nuclear war but that will also do away with nuclear deterrence. Bush is more realistic: he thinks the feasibility of SDI has yet to be proved. He favors research but not early deployment. In his



Back in the cockpit—with caution, decency and a cargo of flascos

Chicago speech, Bush carefully stopped short of prejudging whether a full-scale SDI would make sense. While vowing not to leave America “defenseless” against ballistic missiles, he stressed less grandiose possibilities than a full-scale SDI, such as using its benefits to counter the threat of shorter-range ballistic weapons.

Bush, a former CIA director, supports Reagan’s policy of using covert action and military aid to assist anti-Communist rebels. But while Reagan ennobled—and romanticized—the policy by calling its recipients “freedom fighters,” his more prosaic Vice President talks about the problems of waging “low-intensity conflict.” Bush wants to continue funding the Nicaraguan *contras*, but, says Kim Holmes of the conservative Heritage Foundation, “I don’t think he would ever have called them the moral equivalent of the Founding Fathers.” If Reagan’s beau-ideal of the wash-buckling American good guy is Oliver North, Bush seems to prefer Chester Crocker. He admires the low-key Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs for his seven-year quest (as yet unfulfilled) of a settlement in Angola and Namibia.

**B**ush’s essentially moderate leanings leave plenty of room for sharp differences with Dukakis. The Massachusetts Governor favors sanctions against South Africa; Bush opposes them. Dukakis would halt aid to the *contras*; Bush would not. Dukakis would eliminate most new nuclear-weapons programs; Bush would not. Dukakis virtually panders to Israel, while Bush is more sympathetic than Dukakis to the concerns of moderate Arab nations.

The Bush campaign is eager to paint Dukakis as naively isolationist and, as one aide put it, “Gorby-gaga.” Dukakis, they warn, is a “multilateralist” who would feel bound by international law even when it may not be in the U.S.’s best interests. Yet Bush would also be less “unilateralist” than Reagan. Bush wants the U.S. to provide “cooperative leadership” to the industrialized democracies and keep up a “prudent projection of force” around the world. Although this is not all that different from what Dukakis says, behind the rhetorical nuances lies a significant difference: Bush is more likely than Dukakis to intervene in regional disputes, through covert or military action, when he believes that American commitments or national interests are at stake.

The new campaign chairman, James Baker, is a likely Secretary of State in a Bush Administration. As Treasury Secretary, Baker abandoned the militant *laissez-faire* attitude of hard-core Reaganaids when it came to international economic policy, and instead forged agreements to coordinate currencies and stave off an all-out trade war. It was the sort of friendly persuasion and artful compromise that his predecessor, Donald Regan, scorned. This blend of cooperation with allies and assertive U.S. leadership could be a model for the way he and Bush would approach diplomacy.

Bush has visited no fewer than 70 countries as Vice President, and knows scores of foreign leaders well. He has been a credible salesman for Reagan’s policies abroad as well as a tactful adviser in the Oval Office. But he has never shown as an innovator or a creative thinker. As a participant in White House national security



meetings. Bush rarely volunteers strong views. Few colleagues have been able to discern what he really cares about in foreign policy.

Bush instinctively seeks the reasonable course, the middle ground. Associates say he was clearly nervous when the Soviets and the U.S. all but ceased communicating after the Geneva walkout in 1983 and privately urged Reagan to put the relationship back on track. When arms-control negotiations resumed in 1985, Bush applauded the President's toughness but sided with Secretary of State George Shultz against the Pentagon in favor of the compromises necessary to make a deal.

Given his long and varied experience, Bush's occasional lapses of judgment are worrisome. He was in charge of a drug-interdiction task force, yet he did not insist that the Administration get tough with Manuel Noriega when information started coming in that the Panamanian strongman was involved in drug-running. Instead of trying to explain his position—America's national interest sometimes requires dealing for military reasons with some highly unsavory characters—Bush has maintained that he was not aware of Noriega's dirty dealings. Likewise, he fawned all over Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos during a 1981 trip rather than help set the stage there for the eventual transition to democracy.

**B**ush's greatest problem in foreign policy may be answering the "Where was George?" question. How does he explain the numerous times he has seemed to be invisible when major blunders were made? The most troubling example is the Iran-contra affair. He was in charge of an antiterrorism task force that asserted that the U.S. should never negotiate with terrorists, but Bush says he did not piece together the fact that secret U.S. arms shipments to Iran became an arms-for-hostages deal even though George Shultz and Caspar Weinberger spoke out against it. And although he met with those involved in covert activities in Central America, he says he never discovered that a major enterprise to illegally finance the *contras* was being run from the White House. Even if Bush is taken at his word, both cases illustrate a dismaying lack of curiosity, moral concern or willingness to question the policies of others. They indicate that his much vaunted experience has not fully instilled the wisdom required to stave off such fiascos.

No one with as many years of public service as George Bush can emerge with an unblemished record. Even detractors tend to agree that he is informed, sensible, prudent and decent. But to exploit Dukakis' relative inexperience in foreign policy, as he eagerly hopes to do, Bush will have to convey that his years of playing loyal handmaiden to others have not drained him of a clear sense of the foreign policy goals, convictions and principles that he would assert as his own.

—By Alessandra Stanley/Washington

## Blaming Men, Not Machines

"Human error" will take the rap for the Iran Air shootdown

**N**avy brass had feared for weeks that the tragedy of Iran Air 655 would claim another victim: the controversial Aegis system aboard the U.S.S. *Vincennes*. How could that complex network of radar and computers have mistaken a civilian airliner for an attacking fighter plane? But when the fragmentary results of Rear Admiral William Fogarty's investigation leaked last week, blame fell not on the machines but on the men who were operating them. Under the pressure of combat, Pentagon sources say, the overwrought sailors on the *Vincennes* misread the radar data about the oncoming Airbus and passed faulty information to Captain Will Rogers III. He then ordered the launching of the two missiles that de-

stroyed the plane, killing all 290 aboard.

Yet more than a few Washington cynics speculated that the "human error" leak was an attempt to head off criticism of the Aegis system, the defensive backbone of the Navy's 14 carrier battle groups. Critics charge that Aegis, which can monitor hundreds of targets at a time, has never been adequately tested and is better suited to the open ocean than to the crowded gulf. "The Navy has to protect the Aegis," said a congressional staff aide. "If Aegis doesn't work, the carrier groups can't survive."

The leaks left important questions unanswered. Among the most critical is whether the *Vincennes* actually received a



Preparing for Persian Gulf duty: Captain Will Rogers supervises his crew on the *Vincennes*. In the stress of battle, misinterpretations turned self-defense into calamity.

signal from the doomed aircraft identifying itself as an F-14 fighter. A series of such coded responses was allegedly a crucial factor in Rogers' decision to fire. Sources say the Fogarty report suggests the signals came from a C-130 transport at the Bandar Abbas airport some 60 miles away. But the C-130 signal differs from that of an F-14.

As the accounts of the Fogarty investigation were circulating, a congressional committee led by Wisconsin Democrat Les Aspin held hearings on the Administration's proposal to pay compensation to the relatives of the Airbus casualties. Few Congressmen seemed sympathetic to the idea. "People ask why should we pay the victims of this tragedy," noted Aspin, "when Iran still holds [U.S.] hostages and has never paid any of the victims of its policies." State Department Legal Adviser Abraham Sofaer reminded the committee that Ronald Reagan had endorsed the decision to fire on Iran Air 655 as "justifiable defensive actions." But after the succession of mistakes reported on the *Vincennes*, that justification seemed considerably shakier.

Reported by Bruce van Voorst/Washington

# Talking About the Weather

*The lazy days of summer yield to an attack of ecophobia*

In an ordinary heat wave, Americans typically fume and fuss, grab relief where they can, and slog through the pestiferous weather with sweaty humor and prayers of gratitude to the great god A.C. This summer's record-busting hot spell, however, has aroused an extraordinary response. On top of the usual chafing at day after sticky day of hot, humid and hazy punishment has come a communal attack of the worries. Many Americans have found themselves concerned less about passing misery and more about the whole bruised and abused human habitat. Soggy, unremitting heat sometimes seemed a symptom of general ecological collapse. Had the great breakdown begun?

This fretful mood has been easy to notice in small talk and just as easy to experience. It is evident in tense radio weather reports and the spastic smiles of television weather forecasters as they explain the now well-known greenhouse effect—the inexorable warming of the earth under the global canopy that civilization has created with gases like carbon dioxide. The friendly, familiar promises of good ol' summertime have yielded to the hallucinatory imagery of technology.

Ecophobia, as the mood might be called, has not been induced by the hot spell alone, even though many places have scored the heat the worst in history. Chicago reported an unprecedented number of 100° days, and temperature records have been broken in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Oregon and Washington. Stifling heat made it easy for an all too varied constellation of environmental disasters to mobilize popular anxiety. Consider some of the summer's invitations to fret:

- Beaches by the dozen up and down the East Coast have repeatedly been closed to swimmers because of waters infested by sewage or contaminated hospital waste such as blood samples and hypodermic needles.
- Persistent drought has laid waste to America's agricultural midsection. Damaged grain harvests in the U.S., Canada and China will result in the sharpest ever one-year drop in world grain stocks. Worldwatch Institute reported last week.
- Forest fires have destroyed immense swatches of Yellowstone National Park, where an 18,700-acre burn pushed close to Old Faithful. Other wildfires have afflicted areas of Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon and Idaho, including a 2,300-acre blaze that came within a few miles of Boise.
- Air quality in the U.S. was reported to be the worst in the decade by monitors of the Environmental Protection Agency. In Milwaukee 18 days of unhealthy ozone levels represented an 80% increase over 1987. Says Steve Howards, executive director of Denver's Metropolitan Air Quality Council: "The air is still breathable, but clearly the trends are running against us."

There was plenty of other fuel for worry: reports of inex-

plicable fish kills, warnings against eating shellfish, tales of lakes and forests dying from acid rain. Who could forget that up to 12% of all U.S. houses suffer unsafe radon exposure? That by sending up chlorofluorocarbons used in coolants, man is still destroying the ozone layer that protects against ultraviolet rays?

Public television's nature shows provide fresh images of catastrophe: dolphins dying mysteriously at sea, developers torching the South American rain forests that scientists consider vital to absorbing carbon dioxide, Chesapeake fishermen dolefully describing the deformed oysters they now often haul in. Last week came New York City, which treats the Atlantic like a municipal cesspool and dumps some 4 million wet tons of sewage sludge annually 106 miles out to sea, promising that it will stop that practice—maybe in ten years.

Most experts blamed 1988's heat on a northerly shift of the jet stream that shut the U.S. off from some of the Canadian cool that usually drifts down. Still, it was hard not to suspect, as a few experts did, that the man-made canopy high above was already busy roasting the earth. The combination of heat and pollution gave a "sense of foreboding" to Jeannie Little, 32, visiting Chicago last week. She had taken a dip to cool off in Lake Michigan. "I climbed over garbage at the water's edge—Coke bottles, potato-chip wrappers, cigarette butts," she said. "The water felt nice, but when I got out I felt all sticky and attracted flies. It was disgusting. In a



Amid haze and heat, bad news for the human habitat

few years' time, where will you be able to go to escape the oppression of this kind of heat? This summer makes me nervous about what we have in store."

Popular fear of crime is often disproportionate to the amount of criminal activity. Apprehensions about ecological dangers may be similarly exaggerated. Every worry, however, is reinforced by the common knowledge that governments and political leaders are doing precious little about mundane pollution problems, and almost nothing to arrest or curtail the fossil-fuel emissions that are turning the planet into an oven.

Ecophobia may wax and wane, but it is not likely to disappear as though it were free-floating anxiety. Any species that has endured four decades with the thermonuclear fantasies of Mutually Assured Destruction knows how to worry big, and there is sufficient cause for fear about almost every aspect of the human environment. Sooner or later, Americans inevitably hear Charles Dudley Warner's observation that while everybody talks about the weather, nobody does anything about it. It is time to bury that aphorism for good. Mankind has, willy-nilly, done altogether too much about the weather—and all too little to reduce or control the mindless damage.

—By Frank Trippett

Reported by Elizabeth Taylor/Chicago, with other bureaus

## American Notes



SOUTH CAROLINA Close encounters of a reptilian kind

### THE MILITARY

## Cleaning Up Navy Messes

Topless dancers, noontime burlesque shows and the myriad other forms of sexually oriented entertainment that the military has dreamed up over the years are now off base, literally, for the Navy, according to guidelines adopted last week. A study last fall found that on-base sex clubs encouraged "abusive behavior toward all women." Private parties at Navy messes will also have to clean up their act or go elsewhere.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

## The Legend of Lizard Man

While changing a tire near Scape Ore Swamp at 2 a.m. last June, Christopher Davis was set upon by a 7-ft.-tall scaly lizard with glowing red eyes. As Davis tells it, he jumped into his Toyota just as the creature's claws grabbed the door handle. Swerving left and right, the 17-year-old boy managed to shake the beast off. He shared his story with a few friends in nearby Bishopville. Then last month Mary Ward reported that her Ford LTD was scratched and clawed near the swamp. Sheriff's deputies initially tied the two events together—and Lizard Man was born.

The monster may be the

biggest thing to hit Bishopville (pop. 3,500) since Hometown Boy Felix ("Doc") Blanchard left in the 1940s and became an All-American fullback at West Point. Hunters with shotguns combed the swamp, and a local radio station offered a million-dollar reward for the creature's capture. Fourteen-inch footprints appeared on a dusty road; Sheriff Liston Truesdale intends to send plaster casts to the FBI, eventually. He may also ask Davis to take a polygraph. But no one is in much of a hurry to solve this mystery. "I hope they never catch him," said Rhonda Knight as she hawked Lizard Man T shirts (\$6.50 apiece).

### CALIFORNIA

## Grief for the Coroner

Sharon Hall, 35, and her mother Helene Tilch, 59, seemed beside themselves with grief last December when they identified Jane Doe No. 70, a corpse at the Los Angeles County coroner's office, as Hall's sister. Later, authorities discovered there was no sister. Sharon Hall had used the coroner's death certificate to fake her own demise, sidetracking creditors and probation officers who were on her trail. Hall was sentenced to two years in prison for the scam; her mother got 16 months.

The L.A. coroner's office may now require relatives to



TOURISTS Carlucci to Soviets: tanks for the memories

identify their loved ones from a photo collection of corpses, show a driver's license or other identification, and be fingerprinted. The coroner would then run a computer check of the corpse's identity. These cold-eyed procedures would apply to the real relatives of Jane Doe No. 70, if they ever surface. Her ashes have been returned to the coroner's office.

### TOURISTS

## Top Gun In Moscow

When a pair of the needle-nose supersonic bombers known as Blackjacks roared through patchy clouds above Kubinka Air Base near Moscow last week, a special visitor was craning his neck to get a glimpse: Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, the first American allowed to see the Soviets' top-secret plane.

Carlucci later eased into the cockpit for a closer look at the Soviets' most sophisticated jet, capable of speeds reaching Mach 2 with a range of 4,500 miles. During field exercises at nearby Taman Division army base, Carlucci watched as warplanes streaked overhead and the earth trembled from mock explosions. The spectacle was a high point in the new military exchange between U.S. and Soviet officials. Several weeks ago, Soviet Chief of Staff Marshal Sergei Akhromyev

was allowed near the American B-1 bomber. Still, on-site inspections are not likely to replace sophisticated satellite reconnaissance. Of his unprecedented inspection of the Blackjack, Carlucci said, "I couldn't tell one instrument from another."

### IRAN-CONTRA

## Ollie Wins, and So Does Bush

A trial delayed could be a trial that never takes place. Iran-Contra Defendant Oliver North has argued successfully for postponement of his Sept. 20 trial until he can sort through more classified documents. Judge Gerhard A. Gesell's grant of the delay was also a victory for George Bush. North's defense, in part, is that he had the approval of his White House superiors in diverting Iran arms-sales profits to the Nicaraguan rebels. The trial postponement removes the possibility that a prejudicial answer to the question "Where was George?" could come out in the courtroom before the November election.

The volume of classified material that North says he needs—Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh last week compared it to a telephone book—may take a while to peruse. Intelligence agencies will want many of the documents kept secret, which could effectively postpone North's trial forever.

## World

MIDDLE EAST

# Goodbye to All That

### *Hussein's gambit confounds friend and foe*

**F**or weeks, King Hussein agonized over his decision. He ordered up secret studies to assess the consequences, but still he hesitated. Finally, in mid-July, he made up his mind. Even the few remaining skeptics in his Cabinet had become convinced that action must be taken. As a courtesy, Hussein advised Washington several days in advance that an announcement would be forthcoming.

Then at 8 p.m. on a Sunday evening, Hussein, sitting beneath a portrait of Sharif Hussein, his great-grandfather, went on Jordanian television. Calmly he informed his 3.6 million countrymen that in response to the wishes of both the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Arab states, he was "dismantling the legal and administrative links" between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The announcement struck like an earth tremor, disrupting the status quo in the West Bank and scrambling the assumptions that have underlain talk of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement. In Baghdad P.L.O. Chairman Yasser Arafat met late into the night with his advisers; he then imposed a blackout on all official comment and called a meeting of the 451-member Palestine National Council, the P.L.O.'s top decision-making body, later this month to take measure of the King's maneuver. In Jerusalem officials at first brushed off Hussein's announcement, but the Knesset scheduled a special session to discuss the matter. In Washington some officials expressed the belief that Hussein's move killed the already faint hopes for a regional peace plan outlined by Secretary of State George Shultz earlier this year. Others suggested that the King's action might ultimately achieve quite the opposite, namely, produce momentum for a settlement. State Department Spokes-

woman Phyllis Oakley captured the confusion by saying, "No jumping to conclusions—not even inching to conclusions."

In the days after his speech, Hussein maintained a calculated silence, never explaining precisely how far he plans to go toward severing ties with the 800,000 Palestinians who live in the West Bank. Initial speculation centered on the possibility that

the King intended to relinquish Jordan's historical connection to the West Bank, an area that Amman formally ruled from 1950 until 1967, when Israel seized the territory during the Six-Day War. But Hussein insisted in his speech that he was not abandoning the Palestinian cause. His more likely aim: to lay down a challenge to the P.L.O., which has long demanded total control of the West Bank. Should the

P.L.O. fail to administrate effectively or to progress toward peace, Hussein in no way foreclosed a future role for Jordan. "It's the put-up-or-shut-up approach," said a Western diplomat in Amman.

Whether the King dealt from strength or frustration, his move was the logical culmination of a series of disappointments. Through the eight months of the Palestinian *intifadeh*, or uprising, Hussein has found Jordan's role and influence steadily diminished in the West Bank. While the King has a keen interest in easing the living conditions for West Bank Palestinians, fellow leaders in the Arab world have persistently refused to recognize his efforts. Jordan's financial and political efforts on behalf of the West Bank have provoked Arab criticism that the King is trying to usurp the P.L.O.'s role. Hussein's attempts to promote the U.S.-sponsored peace plan have met with angry charges that he intends to speak for the Palestinians. "Our efforts are misconstrued as competition," he said plaintively at the Arab summit in Algiers last June.



**The King: a crafty challenge?**



## The Ties That Bind

**The Allenby Bridge, which spans the Jordan River and links Jordan with the West Bank**

If Hussein's patience was already strained, the summit in Algiers pushed it to the snapping point. During the three-day meeting, Hussein, whose government spends up to \$70 million annually on administration in the West Bank, appealed to Arab leaders to honor past financial commitments, as well as new ones, to both the P.L.O. and Jordan. He was turned down on both counts. Instead, the summiters voted to pay the P.L.O. \$128 million directly to defray the costs of the *intifadeh* so far, plus \$43 million a month to keep the uprising alive. (Not a dinar of that pledge has so far reached the P.L.O.) At the same time, the Arab leaders reiterated their 1974 position that the P.L.O. was the "sole legitimate representative" of the Palestinian people.

Hussein's frustration also extends to the U.S. and Israel. When Washington renewed its attempts last March to broker a settlement in the Middle East, Hussein, unlike some of his Arab brethren, attempted to promote the initiative. At the Reagan Administration's bidding, he approached the P.L.O. with the notion of forming a joint delegation for future negotiations. But Hussein received little support from Washington, which declined to press Israel to accept a land-for-peace exchange. Says Robert Neumann, a former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia: "Hussein finally got disgusted with the American efforts to use him."

Israel, meanwhile, refused to make





Though Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967, King Hussein has maintained a variety of other bonds to a territory that was under his control before the Six-Day War. Among them:

■ Until last week, Jordan paid the salaries of 21,000 teachers, health workers and others.

■ Some 750,000 Palestinians hold Jordanian passports.

■ Jordan maintains West Bank schools, hospitals, mosques and utilities.

■ The Jordanian dinar is the West Bank's currency of choice.

the slightest concession to help smooth the way toward an international peace conference sought by Hussein and other Arab leaders. At least one comment in Hussein's speech last week was aimed directly at Israeli hawks: "Jordan is not Palestine," the King noted. Many Israeli rightists, hardened by the turmoil of the *intifadeh*, have come to support the view promoted by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon that Jordan should be the Palestinian homeland and that the West Bank should be annexed by Israel. If large numbers of Palestinians from the West Bank were forced into Jordan, where the population is already almost two-thirds Palestinian, Sharon's vision might become Hussein's reality.

Hussein's bitter gambit may be an attempt to force a recognition of his central role in the peace process. It would be a vindication for the King if Arafat fails to live up to the responsibilities thrust upon him and is compelled by his constituency to return—*kaffiyeh* in hand—to plead for help from the King. "Behind Hussein's action is his conviction that Arafat won't be able to pull it off," says Joseph Sisco, former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Near East Affairs.

It is difficult to assess how heavy the P.L.O.'s new burden will be. While agreeing to sever Jordan's links with the West Bank, Hussein remained studiously vague in his speech about the concrete steps he

intends to take. Just before his speech, the King terminated a five-year \$1.3 billion development program for the West Bank and dissolved Jordan's 60-member lower house of parliament, half of whose members represent West Bankers. Both steps were more symbolic than significant.

**F**our days later, however, Jordan announced that it was laying off or retiring 21,000 West Bank civil employees, including teachers, health, and utilities workers. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir responded that Israel would block the P.L.O. from assuming those responsibilities. Jordanian officials said there were no plans to revoke the Jordanian passports held by 750,000 West Bank Palestinians or to close the two bridges that link Jordan and the West Bank.

In the West Bank, some Palestinians regard Hussein's withdrawal as a positive step toward some form of Palestinian statehood, and believe the moment is right for the P.L.O. to create a government-in-exile in the occupied territories. Others are less sanguine. On Saturday, Israeli television reported that authorities had seized an embryonic "declaration of independence" drawn up by Palestinian leaders. Many Palestinians fear that Hussein has opened the door to annexation by Israel.

At an Israeli Cabinet meeting last week, two conservative ministers, includ-

ing Sharon, spoke in favor of annexation, while Labor ministers warned that an expanded Israel would dangerously tilt the balance of the population in favor of the Arabs. No action is expected before the November election of a Prime Minister, which pits hard-liner Shamir against the more moderate Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Peres, who accepts the concept of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at an international peace conference, insisted last week that Hussein's move was "more of a warning than a practical step." One practical consequence, however, may be that Peres could suffer at the polls.

Shultz, for his part, is loath to pronounce his peace initiative dead. "He [Hussein] has to be a partner because Jordan has the longest border with Israel of any state," the Secretary of State said last week. "If there's going to be peace between Israel and its neighbors, then Jordan is involved." Hussein would not disagree; as he said in his speech last week, "Jordan will not give up its commitment to take part in the peace process." By abdicating responsibility for the West Bank, however, Hussein is challenging the U.S., Israel and the P.L.O. to work together toward a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict—without relying so heavily on him. The question is what it will take to persuade the King to step back into the process, if that is what he has in mind.

—By Jill Smolowe, Reported by David S. Jackson/Amman, with other bureaus



## World



War of attrition: an Israeli army vehicle detours around burning tires in Gaza

### Rebellion with a Cause

*Running in lower gear, the uprising nonetheless grinds on*

**T**he *intifadeh* lives. Last week, eight months after the Palestinian uprising first exploded in the occupied territories, yet another two-day general strike shut down businesses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Curfews were again clamped on restive towns and refugee camps, accompanied by more roadblocks, stonings, riots and tear gas. Another ten Palestinians were killed by Israeli soldiers, raising the count of total dead since last December to more than 230.

While Middle East experts argue over the implications of King Hussein's abdication of responsibility for the West Bank, the Palestinians who live in the occupied lands remain as determined as ever to shake off Israeli rule. They have adopted a strategy of making the occupation as expensive as possible for Israel, even at great cost to themselves. The Israeli government is replying with collective punishment—curfews, mass arrests, demolition of homes, destruction of crops, deportations—but has so far failed to crush the rebellion. In the process, the *intifadeh* has been transformed from a test of muscle into one of will. "This is a war of attrition," says "Mahmoud," a Palestinian activist, explaining the growing use of fire bombs against the Israeli military. "We know a few Molotovs are not going to liberate Palestine. But with them we can exhaust the Israelis before they can exhaust us."

With the *intifadeh* running in a lower gear, large-scale demonstrations and riots have given way to smaller, though just as lethal, clashes between Palestinian activists and Israeli army patrols across the West Bank and Gaza. Some of the confrontations are initiated by "striking forces," groups of young men organized in nearly every Palestinian community. In-

stead of waiting for spontaneous outbursts, they mount hit-and-run raids designed to keep Israeli soldiers on edge. Other confrontations result from provocations by the army and by the Israeli policy of harsh reaction to the slightest sign of rebellion. Says a senior officer in Gaza: "The soldiers must run to every tire burning and stone throwing and chase the perpetrators, even if the chances of catching them are not high."

Street clashes may mark the front line of the uprising, but at the heart of the resistance lies a passive refusal to cooperate with the occupation. The *intifadeh* has become a tug of war for economic and psychological advantage. The pervasive commercial strike under which Arab shops open for only three hours a day remains one of the most palpable symbols of Palestinian solidarity. The army has given up trying to break this form of protest.

At the same time, Israel is using a variety of repressive measures to dampen the spirit of rebellion. With revenues from the occupied territories slashed as much as 50% by a Palestinian tax boycott, the government has begun staging "tax raids." Some 9,000 residents of Beit Sahur, near Bethlehem, were placed under curfew for a week after 300 townsfolk threw away their Israeli identity cards to protest orders to pay back taxes. When a mob stoned Israeli cars in the village of Beit Omer a few weeks ago, the authorities retaliated by refusing to issue market permits to 50 local fruit growers; now millions of dollars

worth of plums are rotting on the trees. Money is growing scarce, especially in Gaza, as the Israelis impose punitive fines and present confiscatory bills for dwindling services. Merchants in the West Bank say their income has shrunk by 60%. Savings are vanishing. To punish communities where there has been rioting, the Israeli authorities sever telephone lines, cut off electricity, curtail food shipments and restrict travel.

The streets of Gaza were deserted last week as residents submitted to a host of new regulations. Outside the Jabalia refugee camp, under a blazing sun, thousands of men stood in a queue snaking between double rows of barbed wire to receive new identity cards. Without them, they cannot work or travel and are subject to arrest. Near the Erez checkpoint on the Israeli border, Gaza drivers lined up every day starting at 3 a.m. for license plates that specifically identify the car owner's camp or town. At Gaza military headquarters, other Palestinians waited for proof-of-tax-payment stamps that they need to obtain travel permits and birth certificates. All the red tape is intended to rebuild Gaza's dependence on Israel and, incidentally, provide the government with up-to-date information on Palestinians living in the strip.

Israel has succeeded in imposing a measure of calm in the Gaza enclave, but it is taking constant vigilance by 11,000 troops and a regimen of curfews, arrests, beatings and harassment to keep the area's towns and refugee camps from erupting anew. When the local council of Al Bureij resigned under orders from *intifadeh*'s leaders, the Israelis placed the refugee camp under 24-hour curfew for two weeks. The army cut power lines and waterlines, and barred the men from working in Israel for one month. Tax raids conducted block by block netted about \$90,000. Says a senior official of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency: "Israel wants the population to come and say they've had enough."

But Jerusalem is reluctantly recognizing that the *intifadeh* is a fire it may be able to bank but cannot quench. In an unprecedented admission, a senior military officer said recently that while the violence has lessened, he could see no end to the uprising. "There is no return to the pre-December 1987 status quo," he said. The situation "demands that we organize for the long run." On this point, at least, Israelis and Palestinians agree. "The *intifadeh* has become natural to people," says a shopkeeper in the West Bank town of Anabta. "We will live on a scrap of bread, but we will never give up."

—By **Johanna McGeary/Gaza**  
Reported by **Jamil Hammad/Beit Sahur**

**The Palestinian  
intifadeh  
has been  
transformed  
from a test of  
muscle into a  
test of will**

## Prejudice and Black Sambo

*American blacks are up in arms over Japanese racial attitudes*

First came reports that Little Black Sambo dolls and black mannequins with grotesquely large lips were on display in Tokyo department stores. Then Michio Watanabe, a senior strategist in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, publicly suggested that U.S. blacks were irresponsible: in a speech he noted that Japanese would "escape into the night or commit family suicide" rather than fail to pay their debts. But in the U.S., Watanabe said, "where credit cards are much in use, a lot of blacks, and so on, think, 'We're bankrupt. We don't have to pay anything starting tomorrow.'"

Watanabe apologized, and the stores removed the dolls and mannequins. But

Luther King and civil rights, but it's in an abstract context." If that is the situation, it is not surprising that stereotypes abound—and not just about blacks; while whites generally are considered by Japanese to be advanced and "civilized," fellow Asians and others are sometimes seen as backward, even inferior.

For many Japanese, the first exposure to blacks came during the post-World War II occupation, when they saw U.S. soldiers housed in segregated barracks. Others picked up racial attitudes and stereotypes—such as Little Black Sambo—from U.S. television, movies and books, or American acquaintances. "I experience racism daily," says Robert Jefferson, a

pert: "Blacks appear to have a wild side that seems beyond normal human strength."

The image, however distorted, apparently has wide appeal. Kazuhiro Nakajima, a spokesman for Yamato Mannequin, says his company began manufacturing black mannequins and arranged them in dancing poses after a study found that the design expressed "new sexiness, *kawaii* [cuteness] and fresh energy." Yamato made 100 of the figures before the Foreign Ministry called the firm's attention to a critical article about the mannequins in the Washington *Post*. The company stopped production. Sanrio Co., the manufacturer of a well-selling line of toys and gift items, followed suit. Its products included large-eyed dolls called Sambo and Han-nah, and towels, bags and stationery goods decorated with pictures of the pair. Along with a big-lipped black doll



Disturbing stereotypes: Michio Watanabe expounds on minority finances; Bibinba dolls on display in a Tokyo department store

the incidents raised questions in the U.S. about Japanese racial attitudes, questions that mirrored concerns raised two years ago, after former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone suggested that black and Hispanic Americans were lowering U.S. literacy and intelligence rates. In Washington the Congressional Black Caucus, which represents 23 lawmakers, last week urged Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to convene a meeting of Japanese executives to end "the negative stereotypical representations of black Americans once and for all." Declared Congressman Charles Rangel, a New York Democrat: "We're talking about a general racial attitude. They are now world leaders. They are going to have to learn that the whole world is not Japanese."

Scholars from Japan suggest that their countrymen are not intentionally racist but are insensitive toward other peoples because of centuries of homogeneous and isolated development. "They have little social experience in dealing with different races," explains Nagayo Homma, a professor of American studies at the University of Tokyo. "They know about Martin

black radio correspondent for ABC News in Tokyo. Jefferson says Japanese avoid sitting next to him on trains or taking the same elevator.

While such experiences are commonly shared by white foreigners, Jefferson also recalls stereotyped remarks—not unheard of in the U.S., of course—such as "You must be able to sing very good" because all blacks do. Jefferson adds that a landlord refused to show him housing because the rules prohibited rentals to models, TV personalities, bar girls—and blacks. When Jefferson asked why blacks were excluded, he was told, "Because when two or three of them get together, they don't know how to act."

At the same time, blacks are prominently displayed in Japanese commercials. Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson and Singer Michael Jackson push Japanese products, and Suntory brewery features a black doo-wop group called 14 Karat Soul in television spots for its Suntory White whisky. Japanese marketing experts say viewers respond favorably to blacks because they seem more full of energy than whites. Says an advertising ex-

named Bibinba, the line brought Sanrio more than \$11 million in sales last year. "We were making a summer item, and we designed it to be *kawaii*," says Kazuo Tomatsu, a company spokesman. "We deeply regret that we lacked consideration in regard to minorities in the U.S."

Americans, of course, have produced their own unflattering images of the Japanese over the years—from the malevolent figures depicted on World War II posters to more benign, but not necessarily inoffensive, postwar depictions. "If there were yellow dolls in the U.S. with buck teeth, narrow slanted eyes and called Jap, of course the Japanese would be angry," says Kaname Saruya, who teaches American history at Tokyo Woman's Christian University. "They're doing the same thing here with Sambo, but they don't realize it. Japanese are obtuse." Obtuse or not, that is little consolation for American blacks: having made progress, however limited, against bigotry at home, they are appalled to find a troubling reflection abroad.

—By John Greenwald

Reported by Kuniko Makiura/Tokyo



# THESE SAABS MAY DRAW AN OCCASIONAL GLANCE OR TWO. (OR THREE.)

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## World Notes



ANGOLA South African troops patrolling in Namibia

ANGOLA

### A Matter Of Timing

When South Africa, Angola and Cuba agreed in principle last month to end the conflict in southwestern Africa, all sides agreed to conduct further talks in secrecy. Last week Pretoria broke that understanding by publicly offering to pull its 3,000 troops out of Angola by September and to grant independence to neighboring Namibia, which it now administers, by next June. South Africa demanded that Cuba also withdraw its estimated 50,000 troops from Angola by June. In response, Cuban Negotiator Carlos Aldana Escalante said it was "preposterous and unrealistic" for his country's soldiers to leave Angola within a year. But when the latest negotiations ended last week, the parties issued a joint communique stating that they had agreed on a "sequence of steps" for peace.

TERRORISM

### More Blood On Their Hands

For the first time since October 1984, when a bomb ripped through a Brighton hotel during a Conservative Party conference, the Irish Republican Army has successfully moved its bloody campaign to Britain.

At Inglis Barracks in north London, 14 British soldiers were asleep in their living quarters when an I.R.A. bomb exploded just before 7 a.m. A lance corporal was killed, and nine soldiers were injured.

Later that day in Northern Ireland, a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary died when an I.R.A. car bomb detonated as he drove through Lisburn, ten miles south of Belfast. Half an hour later in West Belfast, two gunmen dragged an off-duty Ulster Defense Regiment lance corporal from a supermarket and, as his wife and two-year-old daughter looked on, shot him dead. The next morning a part-time private in the U.D.R. was shot to death 40 miles west of Belfast. Two men were gunned down in nearby County Fermanagh when an I.R.A. squad let loose with 150 rounds at close range. Finally, an I.R.A. bomb injured three soldiers and a civilian in a British army barracks in West Germany.

NORWAY

### The Whales Of August

The eight scientists aboard a sealing boat off the island of Jan Mayen, 640 miles west of Norway, peered through their binoculars last week and were elated. Arching through the icy waters were ten blue whales, the largest creatures on earth. Blues once flourished

in the Norwegian and Barents seas but almost vanished from the area after intensive hunting by Norway and the Soviet Union.

Now a three-week whale count by 30 scientists confirms that the giants are once again venturing into their former habitat. One explanation may be a 1966 hunting ban that perhaps saved blue whales from extinction.

THE GULF

### Shall We Talk Now?

Frustrated were the peace-makers, especially when the warring parties were Iran and Iraq. Baghdad insisted on direct talks with Tehran before a cease-fire: Iran was holding out for a truce. But at week's end, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein signaled his willingness to accept a cease-fire, provided that talks followed. The initial response from Tehran seemed favorable.

A U.N. investigating team meantime returned to New York from the battlefield with fresh evidence that Iraq is using chemical weapons. According to the experts, Iraqi forces fired poison-gas shells at Iranian troops before retaking the Majnoon Islands in June. The first symptoms in those affected were described as "burning in the eyes and various parts of the body." Last week Iranian of-

ficials claimed that Iraqi planes dropped mustard-gas bombs on towns and villages in northwestern Iran, injuring some 1,700 people. Iraq denied the allegations.

ANTIQUITIES

### How Hot Is Aphrodite?

When the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, Calif., unveiled its latest acquisition two weeks ago, scholars applauded the work as a masterpiece. Dating from the 5th century B.C. and believed to represent Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, the marble and limestone figure drew praise for its unusually good condition and majestic beauty. But Getty officials, who reportedly paid \$20 million for the piece, may have got more than they bargained for.

The Italian police last week began investigating rumors that the statue was taken from an illegal excavation in Sicily. Getty officials countered that they had attempted to check the same rumors last year—to no avail. The case grew hotter when Thomas Hoving, former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, claimed that the statue had been taken from the Sicily site to Geneva, then sold to the Getty by an English dealer. Museum officials called Hoving's allegations "purely speculative."



TERRORISM After the I.R.A. bombing at Inglis



ANTIQUITIES Illegal?



## Economy & Business

# Fraud, Fraud, Fraud

*The white-collar crime wave is spurring a determined cleanup operation*

**T**he crime was perfect only in its ghoulis symbolism: the perpetrators allegedly drew blood from poor people, paying them as little as 50¢ a vial, then falsely claimed the samples came from Medicaid patients and billed the Government for millions of dollars' worth of bogus laboratory tests. The alleged Medicaid rip-off, for which a physician and nine others were indicted in New York City, was only the most lurid example in a chain gang of new and continuing fraud cases that shuffled across front pages last week. In virtually every one of half a dozen scams, members of the public had been fleeced by names they thought they could trust, ranging from the Hertz rental-car company to New York City's senior Congressman, Mario Biaggi.

The current dragnet for white-collar criminals culminates a roaring, greedy decade that created not only legitimate prosperity but also boundless motivation for stealing. Fraud was never so tempting or remorseless, thanks to the proliferation of electronic money and fast, faceless financial transactions. In the past the primary safeguard against such theft had been trust, but in the go-go '80s that ethical obstacle blew away like an old cobweb. Now, finally, the epidemic of cheating may be cresting, since greed is going out of style in some quarters, and the spectacle of once upright citizens slouching off to jail may provide a deterrent.

Even so, last week's developments suggested that much more fraud may emerge in the near future as the misdeeds of the gilded '80s are uncovered and brought to justice. What is encouraging, however, is the way in which many law-enforcement agencies are conducting the cleanup with a newfound toughness and technical skill. Among the developments: ▶ Hertz, the largest U.S. auto-rental agency, pleaded guilty in federal court to overcharging customers and their insurance companies for repairs to cars that the motorists had damaged in collisions. The company agreed to pay a fine of \$6.9 million and to make full restitution to some 100,000 victims, who overpaid at least \$13.7 million from 1978 through mid-1985. According to the Government's probe, which was first disclosed in January, Hertz paid wholesale prices for auto repairs but charged customers full re-

tail price without advising them of the markup. In other cases, Hertz prepared phony repair appraisals and charged customers for work that was never done. Hertz says it has fired 20 employees who carried out the scam, including the company's accident-control manager.

▶ Investigators in New York City uncovered a "blood-trafficking" ring in which suspects bought samples from drug addicts and other poor people and then sold the blood to medical labs that bilked the state's Medicaid program of at least \$15 million for useless tests. At 14 of the 41 labs examined, investigators found sufficient improprieties to bar the operations immediately from the Medicaid program.

Last week a Queens grand jury handed up the first criminal indictments from the probe, charging ten people with cheating Medicaid out of \$3.6 million since 1986. The leaders of the ring were Surinder Panshi, 39, a Queens physician, and his father Gurdial Panshi, 68. The Panshis allegedly launched their scheme by buying three clinics that were authorized to conduct tests for Medicaid patients. They then established a network of blood collectors who combed poor neighborhoods for people willing to sell their blood for about \$10 for 20 vials. The Panshi ring allegedly paid their collectors a lucrative \$25 a vial, to which the suspects attached the forged signature of a physician who was supposedly requesting a test on the blood, along with the name of a legitimate Medicaid recipient. The Panshi labs would perform tests on the blood to generate legitimate-looking data, and the Government was billed as much as \$2,000 a sample. Surplus vials of the blood were trafficked to other illicit clinics at a markup.

▶ In one of the first uses of racketeering laws against securities traders, a federal grand jury indicted six men on criminal charges that they evaded taxes through dozens of fraudulent stock deals. The accused—five top officers of Princeton Newport, an investment partnership with offices in New Jersey and California, and a former trader for the Wall Street firm Drexel Burnham Lambert—could face prison terms of up to 20 years each and fines totaling \$19 million.

They allegedly used a technique called stock parking, in which an investor sells shares temporarily to someone else to hide their real ownership from Govern-

ment agencies like the Internal Revenue Service. In this case, Princeton Newport was allegedly parking stocks at Drexel so that the New Jersey firm could claim short-term tax losses on the sale. The laws against racketeering, which involves repeated crimes carried out by a person or a business, have traditionally been used against the Mafia. Bringing racketeering charges against stock swindlers is an aggressive new tactic in the war on white-collar crime.

▶ The probe of insider trading based on purloined early copies of *Business Week* magazine expanded to include at least 16 suspects on both coasts. In the most fully investigated case so far, former Merrill Lynch Broker William Dillon, 33, is believed to have paid employees at a magazine printing plant in Connecticut to give him copies of *Business Week* a full day before the issue was available to the general public so he could buy stocks recommended in the "Inside Wall Street" column before the price went up. Dillon typically paid \$30 an issue, but allegedly reaped profits of \$2,000 or more a week.

Merrill Lynch fired Dillon late last month after it discovered his suspicious trading pattern. Prudential-Bache, detecting an apparently separate but very similar scam, late last month fired a broker in its Anaheim, Calif., office whom it has accused of getting early copies of *Business Week* from a printing plant in Torrance, Calif. Last week the company that operates both plants, R.R. Donnelley & Sons



**INSIDER TRADING**



(which also prints some copies of TIME), fired three workers; a fourth resigned.

Now at least two dozen brokerage houses are checking to see whether any of their employees were also privy to the *Business Week* leaks. Many brokerages have turned over their trading records to the New York Stock Exchange, which is conducting a computer analysis. Says one investigator: "There is nowhere to hide. We're going to catch anyone who profited by advance knowledge of the column." Such individuals could face criminal charges for wire and mail fraud.

► Mario Biaggi, a Bronx Democrat who has served for 20 years in Congress, was convicted of 15 felony counts for his part in the Wedtech scandal. The federal jury found Biaggi guilty of extorting \$1.8 million in Wedtech stock and \$50,000 in cash in return for his influence in getting federal military contracts for the Bronx-based manufacturing company. The day after the conviction Biaggi tearfully resigned his seat in Congress.

Biaggi, 70, who was once one of New York City's most decorated police officers, professed his innocence and plans to appeal the conviction. Said he: "Not a single penny, gift, trip, not a share of stock, ever came to me." But the jury apparently took the word of four former Wedtech executives who testified against Biaggi. In a separate case, Biaggi was sentenced last year to 30 months in prison for obstructing justice and accepting a free trip to Florida as a payoff for his assistance to a Brooklyn shipyard.

► The Pentagon procurement scandal cost 89 people their jobs when Unisys, the computer maker, canceled all its contracts with tiny, Florida-based Armtec, a manufacturer of electronics used in radar systems. Since Unisys is Armtec's main customer, the action forced the company to shut down its operations. Federal agents are investigating Armtec as a possible conduit for illegal payments from Unisys employees to federal officials involved in arms procurement. In particular, the Government is studying the relationship between Unisys, Armtec and Congressman Bill

Chappell Jr., a Florida Democrat who is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on defense. Chappell persuaded Armtec to locate in his district and supported the MK-92 radar system, which is built by Unisys with Armtec as a subcontractor.

Many scholars believe that sleaze comes in cycles and that this decade's ethical looseness was partly inspired by the deregulatory, anything-goes mood of the Reagan era. "People convince themselves that a new norm of acceptability applies because of the general atmosphere of corruption," says Michael Josephson, founder of the Josephson Institute for the Advancement of Ethics in Los Angeles. The emphasis on money as an absolute barometer of success was equally corrupting. Says Donald Shriver, head of the Union Theological Seminary: "The Protestant work heritage is being stood on its head because making money has become a good unto itself."

The mentality of profits-at-any-price will not change overnight, but new deterrents are on the way. Last week House Democrats John Dingell of Michigan and Edward Markey of Massachusetts introduced a bill that would raise the maximum penalty for insider trading for individuals to \$1 million from the current \$100,000, and would provide a

bounty for informants. This fall 60 universities will teach ethics courses developed in a \$5 million program sponsored by the Arthur Andersen accounting firm. Says James Beré, chairman of Borg-Warner: "I'm impressed by the number of people of my generation who are calling for values again. Still, there's a definite problem. Many of the young people who come in to work for us don't know right from wrong." Perhaps the best way to learn is by observing all the pinstripe perpetrators marching across the front pages.

—By Stephen Koepp. Reported by Raji Sanghadi/New York, with other bureaus



**MEDICAID SCAM**



**PENTAGON PAYOLA**



**RENTAL-CAR RIP-OFF**



**CONVICTED CONGRESSMAN**

## Economy & Business

# How to Rob Banks Without a Gun

*A growing army of felons plunders the financial industry*

Even in these days of rampant white-collar crime, few businesses have been more riddled by fraud than banking. One of the latest lenders to surface as a possible wrongdoer is James Wasson, known to friends in Cushing, Okla. (pop. 7,720), as "the General." The title was more than a reflection of his close-cropped hair and commanding ways. Wasson, chairman of Cushing's First National Bank & Trust and a director of Citizens Bank in nearby Drumright (pop. 3,162), was a brigadier general in the Oklahoma National Guard.

The respect faded fast in 1986, when the two banks went belly-up. Soon thereafter Wasson left the Guard and resigned

In testimony before Congress last year, representatives of the five U.S. bank-regulating agencies described an "epidemic" of fraud that had figured in as many as half the S and L failures since 1984.

Often the cash vanishes from vaults only to reappear in the wallets of executives, who use it for personal pleasure. After Bell Savings and Loan of San Mateo, Calif., failed in 1985 with losses totaling \$495 million, authorities found that Partner David Butler had used corporate funds to buy expensive racing airplanes for his exclusive use. Butler pleaded guilty to two felony counts and is awaiting sentencing. In the ongoing investigation of

who has been charged with arranging \$8 million in questionable loans by an Iowa S and L for property in another Dallas development. As part of the deal, the indictment alleges, Gaubert, a friend of House Speaker Jim Wright, bought land for \$0.6 per sq. ft., then sold it the same day for \$5.25 per sq. ft., pocketing \$5.6 million in profits. Gaubert, who denies any wrongdoing, says the Republican Administration is trying to use the Justice Department to embarrass Wright.

But prosecutors say they have uncovered a pattern of misdeeds spurred by greed. "People got into the J.R. Ewing syndrome," says Henry Oncken, the U.S. Attorney in Houston. "The more they made, the more they got caught up in making more." Some S and Ls that believe they were plundered by their officers are taking them to court. Dallas-based Sunbelt Savings Association is



After failing, Cushing's First National reopened as American National



Sunbelt says its former chairman lent too much money to his wife

his banking posts. Last week a federal grand jury in Oklahoma City charged Wasson, 50, with 16 counts of fraud. The indictment handed up against him and a partner, Melvin Pulliam, 63, said the duo conspired to embezzle \$1.3 million from the banks and the U.S. Government. Authorities contend that Wasson used the confidential records of soldiers who had served in his National Guard unit to create applications in their names for six bank loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration. The proceeds were allegedly funneled to the two men through companies they owned.

Should they be convicted, Wasson and Pulliam will join a growing army of felons in the financial industry. The majority of the crimes, including fraudulent land deals, payouts to bogus borrowers and lavish living at depositors' expense, have been uncovered in Texas and California, where financial institutions grew especially fast in the early 1980s. But the problem is by no means restricted to those states. A report issued in January by the Comptroller of the Currency found that in 35% of the 189 U.S. bank failures from 1979 to 1987, fraud or insider abuse was "a significant factor." Among S and Ls, the malfeasance is even more pervasive.

the failure of Texas-based Vernon Savings and Loan, in which regulators charge that top officials have looted the S and L for their own gain, former Senior Vice President John Hill, 40, pleaded guilty in March to a single count of conspiracy. According to court papers, Hill had arranged "paid female companionship" at a 1985 company board meeting in Solana Beach, Calif., by flying in two prostitutes from Dallas and hiring as many as ten others locally. Vernon Savings picked up the tab.

Working on a grander scale, according to federal indictments, were the 111 defendants who have been charged with floating more than \$500 million in bogus loans for a partly completed condominium development ten miles northeast of Dallas, alongside Interstate 30. One prominent S and L owner named in the case was Welba Lee Keetch, 52, a 300-lb Texan known as Bubba. Authorities say Keetch and two colleagues kept \$12.9 million from loans made by First Savings and Loan Association of Burkburnett, which Keetch controlled.

An offshoot of the I-30 condo scandal, as it is known locally, resulted in the March indictment of former Democratic Party Fund Raiser Thomas Gaubert, 48,

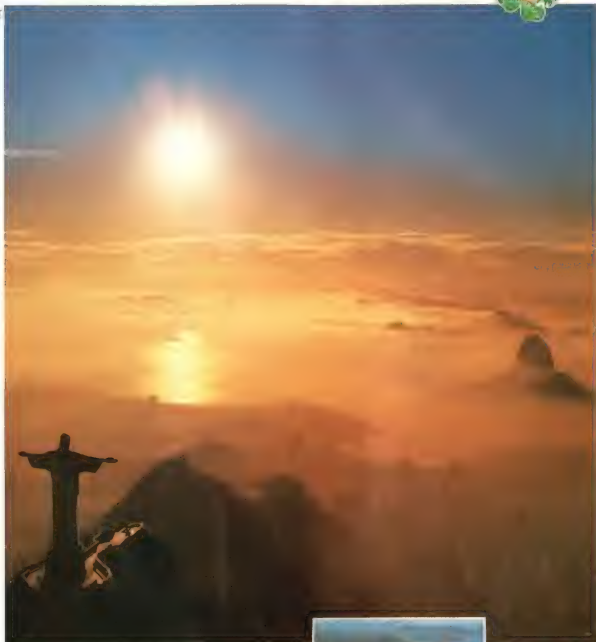
using former Chairman Edwin McBirney III and other ex-managers for \$630 million. The suit alleges in part that McBirney paid "excessive commissions and fees" to friends and relatives. In one instance, McBirney is accused of allowing a company owned by his wife to borrow more than \$200,000. McBirney calls the allegations "an effort by current management personnel to cover up their own mismanagement."

As the incidence of bank fraud rises, law-enforcement officials are struggling to respond. The Justice Department has set up a 50-member squad of attorneys, FBI agents and IRS investigators in Dallas to dig up evidence, while a 25-person FBI team is working out of the U.S. courthouse building in Houston. In Los Angeles, 50 FBI agents and ten prosecutors are looking into 273 cases, 140 of which involve losses greater than \$250,000. "We have more cases than we know what to do with," says U.S. Attorney Robert Bonner in Los Angeles. "We are stretched thin." If what investigators have found so far is any indication, the courts could be clogged with bank-fraud trials for years to come.

—By Gordon Beck

Reported by Jonathan Beatty/Los Angeles and Richard Woodbury/Houston

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Loading up American exports in Virginia: the object is to ensure that U.S. goods can compete

## Going After the Trade Gap

*A sweeping law will be as tough as future Presidents make it*

**T**he 1,000-page bill was four years in the making and remaking. It was debated, dissected and many times given up for dead. But last week Congress finally finished—and seemed overwhelmingly pleased with—the most extensive reworking of U.S. trade laws in 25 years. By a vote of 85 to 11, the Senate passed a bill identical to the one that had already been approved 376 to 45 by the House. Although President Reagan vetoed and nearly killed the bill only four months ago, he will sign it this time, since Congress removed the offending provision requiring companies to give workers advance notice of plant closings and large layoffs.

To politicians in both parties, as well as many economists and business executives, the trade bill is a major advance in the drive by the U.S. to reduce the dangerous gap between its imports and exports—a deficit that hit a record \$170 billion last year. Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, called the bill the “most important piece of legislation on competitiveness this country has ever considered” and a “great victory for restoration of U.S. economic leadership.”

That remains to be seen. The law could be used as a creative force to enhance U.S. competitiveness or as a tool of protectionism that could contribute to economic stagnation. The legislation gives the President new power to counteract trade practices by foreign countries, but it also gives the White House the latitude to decide when to retaliate. In short, the law will be as tough as future Presidents make it.

Among its many provisions, the law will allow the President to block a foreign takeover of a U.S. company if the deal would harm national security. The legislation also directs the White House to speed up efforts to reduce foreign pirating of U.S. patents and copyrights. Perhaps the single most important provision will

require the Government to begin comprehensive investigations of the trade practices of countries like Japan that allegedly maintain numerous barriers against imports. But what action to take, if any, is largely left up to the President. The legislation no longer contains the highly protectionist amendment proposed by Representative Richard Gephardt, which would have forced the White House to hike tariffs or take other retaliatory measures against nations that did not reduce excessive trade surpluses with the U.S.

The law contains plenty of election-year goodies for industries. Among them: \$2.5 billion in new export subsidies for U.S. farm products, and a provision that will help depressed energy-producing states by repealing the windfall-profits tax on oil and gas. But the drafters of the bill wanted to avoid coddling business. The legislation says industries will be eligible for relief from imports only if they take steps to become more competitive.

Congress recognized that more money for better education and job training is crucial to competitiveness. But the amounts specified in the law are small: \$980 million for worker retraining, \$25 million for a literacy program and \$25 million for special English-language classes for immigrant workers.

Trade experts doubt that the election will make much difference in how the law is administered. Both George Bush and Michael Dukakis praise free trade, but both would undoubtedly succumb to political pressure to protect many U.S. industries, as President Reagan has. Dukakis might be more insistent that U.S. business do things in return, like investing in equipment and training programs to enhance competitiveness. Either candidate will do well to remember that the object of the law is not to keep foreign products out but to make sure that American goods can compete.

—By Janice Castro

Reported by Jerome Cramer/Washington

## Help for the Ozone Layer

*Curbs on suspect chemicals*

**A**fter more than a dozen years of rising concern and controversy, governments are finally taking steps to protect the earth's delicate ozone layer. Last week it was the U.S.'s turn. In line with an international accord drafted last September and signed by 37 nations, the Environmental Protection Agency ordered production limits on chemicals that are depleting the ozone in the upper atmosphere. Decreased levels of ozone, scientists have warned, would allow more ultraviolet radiation to reach the earth's surface and increase the incidence of skin cancer and other diseases. Under the new ruling, U.S. producers of halon, an ingredient in fire-extinguishing foam, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are widely used as coolants



A worker checks air-conditioning refrigerant

*The search is on for CFC substitutes.*

in refrigerators and air-conditioners, must halve their output within ten years. Nearly a dozen other countries, including Canada and Norway, have adopted similar measures.

While the regulation will be a blow to the users of halon and CFCs, it could, ironically, produce a windfall for producers. Until substitutes that do not harm the ozone become available, the prices of the chemicals may surge because of limited supplies. Recognizing that possibility, the EPA has asked for public comment on two ways of preventing producers from making excessive profits. One proposal calls for a special tax on earnings from CFC and halon sales, the other for the Government to auction off manufacturing rights, making a company pay for the privilege of producing the chemicals.

Several promising replacements are already being tested. One group, called HCFCs, or CFCs with an extra hydrogen atom, is already used in some home air-conditioners.

## Business Notes



GIMMICKS Storoni sticks to her nickname



FARMS Ravenous invaders are eating what is left



LINGERIE Gentlemen prefer black lace

### AUTOS

## Dealing with Low Turnover

It has not been a pleasant summer for Suzuki Samurai dealers. After *Consumer Reports* branded the sporty vehicle as "not acceptable" because it was prone to roll over while turning sharply at speeds slow as 40 m.p.h., customers shunned Suzuki showrooms. U.S. sales of the Samurai fell from 6,074 in May to 2,199 in June. But the Japanese company, which insists that its own tests show the Samurai is safe, was determined to recover. First Suzuki offered a nationwide rebate of \$2,000 off the Samurai's base price of about \$8,000. Then nine Suzuki dealers in Ohio added an unusual offer: customers who buy a Samurai from them by next July will receive a free one-year, \$1 million accident insurance policy. The incentives seem to be paying off. Samurai sales for July rose by nearly 200%, to 6,327 vehicles.

### GIMMICKS

## Does Lady Di Do Laundry?

The ads for Lady Di Dry Cleaners proclaimed the establishment to be "cleaners to the royal family." But the business is not near Buckingham Palace or, for that matter, in Britain.

Opened last May by Diane Storoni and Gennaro Marinelli, Lady Di Dry Cleaners is a small chain of four shops in the San Diego area.

While few Californians are likely to believe that Prince Charles and Princess Diana send their dirty linen to San Diego, the ads were enough to offend Anglophiles in the area and draw two letters of complaint from the British consulate-general in Los Angeles.

Lady Di Dry Cleaners refuses to drop the "cleaners to the royal family" line or to change its name, and the consulate admits it cannot legally force the owners to do so. Storoni insists that "Lady Di" is a childhood nickname. Those who are offended, says Partner Marinelli, should ask for "a little less starch in their laundry."

### LINGERIE

## New Snap For Garters

When Clark Gable removed his shirt in the 1934 movie *It Happened One Night* to reveal his bare chest, sales of men's undershirts plummeted. This summer's popular baseball film, *Bull Durham*, has had the opposite effect on the undergarment business. After seeing Susan Sarandon show off black-lace garters in the film, many female moviegoers—as well as some men shopping for their sweethearts—rushed out to look

for similar items. "There's no question *Bull Durham* has brought new recognition to the garter belt," says Margery Ruben Cohen, spokeswoman for the Columbus-based Victoria's Secret lingerie chain. At Frederick's of Hollywood stores, sales of garters shot up 15% in the month following the film's release. Though Frederick's offers garters in six colors and ten styles, the black-lace model accounts for 75% of sales.

### MARKETING

## Rhetoric On Reels

Less than a week passed after Jesse Jackson's speech at the Democratic National Convention before entrepreneurs began to profit from his stirring words. MPI Home Video of Oak Forest, Ill., bought film footage of the address from a subsidiary of ABC-TV and produced a 60-minute home video titled *Jesse Jackson: We Can Dream Again*. The \$14.95 tape was an instant success, pulling in 31,000 mail and telephone orders from around the U.S.

But Jackson's lawyers moved quickly to push the stop button on the video venture. Claiming the speech was copyrighted, they sued in federal court, charging MPI with exploiting Jackson's "name, stature and literary, oratorical and creative skills." U.S. District

Judge James Zagel issued a temporary restraining order halting distribution of the video until he issues a ruling, which is expected this week. Lawyers for MPI, which has marketed videotaped speeches by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy and Winston Churchill, argued that the company's right to sell the Jackson tape is protected by the First Amendment. Said MPI Spokesman Jaffer Ali: "We're fighting for the rights of independent companies to put out news events."

### FARMS

## The Russians Are Coming!

For drought-weary farmers in the West, hot weather and high winds have brought another threat to this year's dwindling crop. Hordes of Russian wheat aphids, which thrive on dry wheat and barley fields, are rampaging through 15 Western states, from California and Arizona to Montana. The tiny stalk suckers (size: 0.1 in.) have nearly wiped out harvests in some fields. The bugs are natives of the Soviet Union, Iran and Afghanistan, but were transplanted to Mexico by unknown means in 1980 and have been moving north ever since. Last year the insects caused \$36 million in damage across ten states. Experts predict losses at least that heavy this year. By fall the aphids may reach Canada.



## Religion



The Crucifixion in Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ*: controversy over a Messiah who dreams of marrying Mary Magdalene

COVER STORIES

# A Holy Furor

*Boycotts and belligerence greet a startling new film about Jesus*



Jesus has brief onscreen sex with his first wife Mary Magdalene and later commits adultery. Judas is a hero, the strongest and best of the apostles. Paul is a hypocrite and liar. Jesus is so dazed that, even on the eve of his Crucifixion, he is still not quite sure whether to preach love or murder Romans.

Ready for Director Martin Scorsese's new movie, *The Last Temptation of Christ*?

Powerful, eccentric, bloody, filled with theological gaffes, *Temptation* is an excruciatingly earnest and free-wheeling docudrama based on the 1955 best-selling novel by a tormented Greek Orthodox believer, Nikos Kazantzakis. It is the result of an obsessive 16-year quest by one of Hollywood's most esteemed directors to bring to the screen a struggling Christ who only slowly comes to see himself as the Messiah. The movie, Scorsese says, "is my way of trying to get closer to God."

When it opens this Friday in New

York, Los Angeles and other cities, religious crowd scenes are almost certain to appear outside the theaters as well as in them. For the past month, conservative Christians have denounced the film as blasphemous, staged demonstrations, called for boycotts and shaped a national campaign to have the picture destroyed or withdrawn. Along the way, there have been anti-Semitic incidents and threats against the "non-Christians" at Universal Pictures who took a chance on the film partly to encourage the filmmaker to pursue future projects at the studio.

So far, most of the voices raised against the film belong to people who have not yet seen it. Italian Director Franco Zeffirelli called the movie "damaging to the image of Christ. He cannot be made the object of low fantasies." Fundamentalist Leader Jerry Falwell called for a boycott against MCA, Universal's parent company; all MCA products, which include Grosset & Dunlap publishers, Spencer Gifts and Motown Records; and

any theater that shows the film. Said Falwell: "Neither the label 'fiction' nor the First Amendment gives Universal the right to libel, slander and ridicule the most central figure in world history."

To head off further furor or perhaps even cash in on it, Universal decided last week to move the opening up from Sept. 23 to Aug. 12. Says Tom Pollock, chairman of MCA's motion picture group: "The best thing that can be done for *The Last Temptation of Christ* at this time is to make it available to the American people and allow them to draw their own conclusions, based on fact not fallacy." But Tim Penland, a born-again marketing expert once hired by Universal to placate conservative critics and now a critic himself, believes the six-week jump will unleash more Fundamentalist anger. "It's the most serious mistake a studio has made in decades," he says.

The dramatic centerpiece of the film is a half-hour segment in which the dying Christ, played by Willem Dafoe, hallucinates

nates about the devil's final temptation: come down from the Cross, renounce your role as the Messiah, marry Mary Magdalene and live a long and ordinary life.

Nothing unorthodox there, strictly speaking. As both fully human and fully divine, Jesus is viewed in Christian theology as free of sin but subject to all temptations, including sexual ones. Following Kazantzakis, however, Scorsese presents the early Jesus as a weak and dithering collaborator who builds crosses used by the Romans to execute Jewish rebels. Later he becomes the wild-eyed guru to a band of ragged followers but remains apprehensive and fundamentally confused about his message and his mission. He persuades Judas, his best friend, to betray him to fulfill God's plan. During the reverie on the Cross, Jesus is shown briefly having sex with his wife, Mary Magdalene. Later in the fantasy, after Magdalene dies, he weds Mary of the biblical duo Mary and Martha, then commits adultery with Martha.

*Temptation* is drenched in blood. The blood of sacrificed animals runs through the streets, blood unaccountably pours out of an apple Jesus eats and, at the Last Supper, the wine literally turns into blood. In one grotesque scene, Jesus reaches into his chest (though it looks more like his belly), yanks out his heart and holds it up for his apostles to admire.

For a few critics, this display seems to be an arch-sundup of the Catholic devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Some dialogue also hints at satire, probably unintentionally. Asked by a Zealot to compare being dead with being alive, the resurrected Lazarus says thoughtfully, "I was a little surprised. There isn't that much difference." At times Jesus sounds like a mumbling method actor (his first sermon begins "Umm, uh, I'm sorry"), at others like a recent graduate of the Shirley MacLaine School of Theology ("Everything's part of God").

For Scorsese, a former altar boy who once wanted to be a priest, the movie is no frivolous matter. Actress Barbara Hershey, who plays Mary Magdalene, gave him a copy of the Kazantzakis novel in 1972, and he has been contemplating it ever since. Kazantzakis' Jesus, he insists, is both human and divine, in accordance with Christian teaching. What interested Scorsese in the author's approach "was that the human part of Jesus would have trouble accepting the divine."

For many believers, the problem with all this is that Scorsese is not tinkering with a minor historical figure, as Gore Vidal did with Aaron Burr, but with the

founder of their faith. "This is an intentional attack on Christianity," concludes Joseph Reilly, national director of Morality in Media. The group is particularly incensed by Jesus' anguished comment, "I am a liar. I am a hypocrite. I am afraid of everything... Lucifer is inside me."

Universal Pictures had anticipated controversy. Paramount, originally set to produce the movie in 1983, backed out just weeks before the cameras were to roll. To head off a storm, Universal took the

lofty, full-page newspaper ads in four cities, quoting Thomas Jefferson and announcing that the constitutional rights to free expression and freedom of religion were not for sale.

In the most organized campaign of resistance, Methodist Minister Donald Wildmon, head of the American Family Association, is sending out 2.5 million mailings protesting the film and has scheduled anti-*Temptation* spots on 700 Christian radio stations and 50 to 75 TV stations. "In the twelve years of my current ministry," he says, "I've never seen anything like the response to this movie."

Make that the response to the response. As an annoyed Scorsese points out, "Ninety-nine percent of the people who are complaining have not seen the picture." Many complainers are instead responding to a bootleg copy of an outdated script, circulated by the Sisterhood of Mary, a group of ultra-conservative Protestant women. That version contained the egregious line, which is not in the movie, spoken by Jesus to Mary Magdalene: "God sleeps between your legs."

Universal has tried to calm things down, inserting a disclaimer in the movie saying it is fiction and making Scorsese available for interviews stressing his religious sincerity. Yet the protest has taken on a life of its own. Virtually every televangelist, including Pat Robertson, has mentioned the film during appeals for money. A nonsectarian group called Concerned Women for America has asked all MCA stockholders to sell the company's stock on Sept. 15. And Mother Angelica, a nun who runs the nation's largest Catholic cable network, is calling on protesters to drive with their lights on on Aug. 22. Both dates were picked at random when the opening was still set for September.

Some of the protests have taken on ugly anti-Semitic overtones. Three weeks ago, the Rev. R.L. Hymers Jr., a Christian extremist in the Los Angeles area, staged a demonstration near the Beverly Hills home of MCA Chairman Wasserman, who is Jewish. An actor portraying Wasserman stepped repeatedly on the bloody back of an actor dressed as Jesus and carrying a heavy cross. An airplane meanwhile flew overhead trailing a banner that read, WASSERMAN FANS JEW-HAIRED W-TEMPTATION, and a crowd chanted, "Bankrolled by Jewish money."

As conservatives shriek all around them, liberal churchmen have been bending over backward to avoid criticizing the film, stressing Scorsese's right to interpret Jesus in his own way and sometimes issu-



**Compassion and Passion:** Willem Dafoe as the man from Nazareth

Among the charges, making Christ "an object of low fantasies."

unusual step last January of hiring Penland to calm down the religious right. But Penland resigned in June, charging that Universal had reneged on a promise to let conservative religious leaders see the film and comment on it well in advance of its release.

Although Universal did hold screenings for religious leaders last month, most conservatives refused to come. Instead they staged protests at the Universal lot and published an admonishing ad in the *Hollywood Reporter*. In a letter to MCA Chairman Lew Wasserman, Bill Bright of the Campus Crusade for Christ offered to raise money to reimburse Universal for all copies of the film, which would "promptly be destroyed." Universal responded with

ing a tepid defense or two. Fundamentalist fears are exaggerated, says the Rev. Eugene Schneider of the United Church of Christ, because "people who go to the movie are going to come out bored and leave before it is over."

The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore Jr., Episcopal Bishop of New York, offered one of the strongest defenses, calling *Temptation* "theologically sound." Though the love-making between Jesus and Mary Magdalene may offend some, he said, "Remember, it's a dream. This is yet another portrait—a work of art—which emphasizes certain aspects of Jesus." The Rev. William Fore of the National Council of Churches similarly sees the movie as "an honest attempt to tell the story of Jesus from a different perspective."

Catholics and Methodists have issued no formal response to the film. Bishop Anthony Bosco of Greensburg, Pa., head of the communications department for the National Council of Catholic Bishops, thinks that the movie should be allowed to

expire quietly. "This too shall pass away," he says. But not all Catholics are so patient: his office has received hundreds of phone calls demanding that the church speak out. Says Bishop Bosco: "The anti-Semitism and the hatred this movie has caused can hardly please the heart of Christ."

**M**any clergymen say they have no interest in fanning hysteria over the film, but they wish that Scorsese had made a better movie. The film's Jesus questions himself so much that "it's sort of like watching *The Three Faces of Eve*," complains the Rev. Michael Morris, who teaches religion and the cinema at a Catholic school in Berkeley.

There are knotty theological problems too. In the dream sequence, for example, when Jesus interrupts Paul's preaching to explain that he did not die and rise again, Paul says the facts are not important as long as people have something to believe in. This appears to reinforce the familiar and cynical view that

Paul invented Christianity and distorted Jesus' teachings. Scorsese's Jesus also makes a number of doctrinal blunders. He announces that his death will pay for his own sins, rather than for the sins of mankind. And he picks up dirt and stones and says, "This is my body too," which apparently makes him a founder of pantheism as well as Christianity.

Such theological slipups are fueling passions about the film. Father Morris says he was told by Scorsese that the film maker wonders why everyone is so upset when "it's just a movie." After all, the director said, he has a right to work out his private quest for Jesus on film. "This irks me a bit," admits Father Morris. "You can't be working out private problems to the degree that it causes people to riot in the streets." Although that prospect is unlikely, *The Last Temptation* has touched off the angriest religious debates in years.

—By John Lee  
Reported by Marguerite Michaels/New York and James Willwerth/Los Angeles

## A Critic's Contrarian View

**S**unday school may have taught them the words of the Gospels, but for millions of children, Hollywood provided the pictures. They were pretty pictures: stained glass in motion, from the First Church of DeMille. Handsome men—their beards neatly curled and trimmed, their robes immaculate—trod on tiptoe through a Judea as verdant and manicured as Forest Lawn. They may have represented Israelites of two millenniums past, but they often looked Nordic; God must have had blue eyes. And they spoke the King's English: King James', with an assist from any screenwriter willing to gussy up his fustian. In these prim tones, the heart's revolution that Jesus preached became an Oxford don's lecture, and his ghastly, redemptive death a tableau painted on velvet.

Martin Scorsese's first achievement in *The Last Temptation of Christ* is to strip the biblical epic of its encrusted sanctimony and show biz. He has re-created—in Morocco, and on a pinchpenny budget of \$6.5 million—a Palestine of sere deserts and balding meadows. It takes hard men to work this holy land, men who labor under the twin burdens of poverty and occupying oppression. Their clothes are dirt-dry and sweat-drenched. Their faces, most of them, boast Semitic heritage; their voices hold the raspy, urgent cadences of Brooklyn, Appalachia and other frontier outposts of working-class America. (Only Satan and the Romans speak with British accents.) By jolting the viewer to reconsider Hollywood's calcified stereotypes of the New Testament, Scorsese wants to restore the immediacy of that time, the stern wonder of that land, the thrilling threat of meeting the Messiah on the mean streets of Jerusalem.

Scorsese is America's most gifted, most daring moviemaker. His style is impatient, intimate, conspiratorial, the camera scurrying ever closer to the heart of the matter—X rays of souls in

stress. His films are also, thematically, the same film. In *Mean Streets* and *Raging Bull*, *The King of Comedy* and *The Color of Money*, he has made his own kind of buddy movie. Two men are bound by love or hate; one must betray the other and thereby help certify his mission. In the Nikos Kazantzakis novel and Paul Schrader's script, Scorsese has found a story vibrant with melodrama and metaphor. This Jesus (Willem Dafoe) is not God born as man. He is a man who discovers—or invents—his own divinity. And he is both tormented and excited by the revelation. This Judas (Harvey Keitel) is a strong, loving activist. He wants to overthrow the Roman occupiers, while Jesus wants freedom for the soul. To fulfill his covenant, Judas must betray not Jesus but his own ideal of revolution. He must hand the man he most loves over to the Romans.

Any Jesus film with sex and violence is bound to roil the faithful. For Scorsese, though, these elements are bold colors on the canvas, images of the life Jesus must renounce and redeem. The sex scene (in which Barbara Hershey's Mary Magdalene entertains some customers) exposes a strong woman's degradation more than it does her flesh. And the film's carnage is emetic, not exploitative. The crowning with thorns, the scourging at the pillar, the agonized trudge up Calvary show what Jesus suffered and why. Dafoe's spiky, ferocious, nearly heroic performance is a perfect servant to the role. He finds sense in Jesus' agonies; he finds passion in the parables.

This is not a movie for all believers—or for all moviegoers. But it is, nonetheless, a believer's movie. Scorsese believes in the power of Jesus' message. He believes in the power of cinema to rethink traditions, to make Jesus live in a skeptical age. And those willing to accompany Scorsese on his dangerous ride through the Gospels may believe he has created his masterpiece. —By Richard Corliss



Scorsese last week remixing his film's sound track

## Religion



CHRIST BY CIMA, CIRCA 1500

# Who Was Jesus?

*The debate among scholars is as heated as the one in Hollywood*



In bygone centuries, an unorthodox vision like Martin Scorsese's might have prompted heresy trials and burnings at the stake. Perhaps even a quick crusade mounted by ragtag armies. In

the summer of 1988, the preferred methods of resistance are picket lines, economic boycotts and angry appearances on talk shows. If the furor surrounding Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ* proves one thing, it is that in any era, seismic emotions are involved when people probe the nature of the man who is worshiped as God by well over a billion souls.

How is Jesus to be understood? Did he stride out of the wilderness 2,000 years ago to preach a gentle message of peace and brotherhood? Or did he perhaps advocate some form of revolution? Or did he instead look for heavenly intervention to establish the kingdom of God? What did it mean for Jesus to be tempted by sin? When did he realize that his mission would end with death upon a cross? Did he view himself as the promised Messiah? Did he understand himself to be both God and man, and what imponderable struggles of the soul would that have meant for him during his sojourn on earth?

The man from Galilee, according to the Gospel of Mark, was himself the first

to raise the echoing question "Who do men say that I am?" That question is today not only at the heart of Hollywood's latest controversy but also at the center of equally bitter, though less publicized, disputes among scholars concerning the life of Jesus and what can accurately be said about it.

In Britain, for example, distinguished Oxford philosopher Michael Dummett charged last fall that revisionist Roman Catholic scholarship concerning the historicity of the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection is threatening to make the church a "fraud" and a "laughingstock." In the U.S., conservative Christians are outraged by a self-appointed supreme court of professors known as the Jesus Seminar, which meets twice a year to cast ballots on whether each of the Master's New Testament sayings is authentic or not. Sample conclusion: Jesus did say "Blessed are the poor" but not "Blessed are the meek" or "Blessed are the peacemakers," phrases that, the group contends, were added by the Gospel authors in an echo of Old Testament writings.

The search for the historical Jesus—whether in the vivid imaginings of Hollywood scriptwriters or in the rarefied halls of academe—rests on one fundamental issue: How reliable are the Gospels? Aside from a few brief references in other an-

cient documents, the New Testament is the only source of information concerning the most influential life that was ever lived. Scholars generally agree that the four Gospels were written within 40 to 70 years of Jesus' death on the Cross. In addition, existing copies of the New Testament are far older and more numerous than those of any other ancient body of literature. Thus in terms of documentation, observes Father John P. Meier of the Catholic University of America, "we're better off with Jesus than with most people of ancient history."

The notion of history and how to record it was, of course, rather different in the 1st century A.D. Like other ancient authors, the Gospel writers did not set out to produce records that meet modern standards of precision. Furthermore, they were clearly saturated with faith in Christ and were not necessarily objective transmitters of his story. Says Anthony Harvey, canon of Westminster Abbey and a New Testament scholar: "The writer of a Gospel is not just an editor but a creative theological intelligence, telling the story in a particular way to make a particular point."

In the view of numerous academicians, the anonymous authors of the four Gospels (later conventionally labeled *Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*) were

working from second- and thirdhand materials, passed along by word of mouth for some decades before being written down. Consequently, the Gospels cannot be taken as gospel: that is, they cannot in every instance be considered as describing actual events. "The New Testament is the testimony of believing people," says the liberal Catholic Theologian Edward Schillebeeckx of the Netherlands. "What they are saying is not history but expressions of their belief in Jesus as Christ."

The attempt by modern scholars to ferret out the real, historical Nazarene from the supposedly embellished accounts in the Bible—a process known as the historical-critical method, or "higher criticism"—has resulted in some rather unorthodox notions. A current sampling:

- ▶ Jesus did not claim to be the Messiah

Mack, a Presbyterian at the School of Theology at Claremont, Calif. "Maybe he was trying out one of his kingdom of God ideas in the company of some boisterous Galileans—a bad idea at that time."

Throughout most of Christianity's history, such views would have been condemned as heresies. The Bible was seen as divinely inspired and thus unassailably accurate. "None can doubt that what is written took place," proclaimed St. Jerome, who translated the Gospels into Latin in the 4th century. Multitudes today still regard the Scriptures in that fashion, not least among their estimable scholars and intellectuals.

During the 18th century, however, Enlightenment scholars began to question the whole fabric of revealed religion. In the age of Newton, they believed that the

know almost nothing concerning the life and personality of Jesus."

In the years since Bultmann, who died in 1976, scholarship has been sharply divided. His Protestant heirs continue to view the New Testament as a serious, flawed historical document. Even Catholic scholars have moved toward this story since the Vatican modified its traditionally strict view of the accuracy of the Gospels with a 1943 encyclical and a 1965 instruction allowing broader use of higher criticism.

At the same time, however, other scholars are going in the opposite direction, turning away from skepticism toward a renewed acceptance of much of what the New Testament postulates about Jesus and his teaching. The impetus comes in part from new evidence. As

## THE VIRGIN BIRTH



THE VIRGIN AND CHILD WITH FOUR SAINTS BY FRANCESCO BONSIGNORI, CIRCA 1510

The treatment of Jesus' birth by liberal Catholic scholars threatens to make the church a "laughingstock," says one professor

Such assertions represent the church's later belief, which Gospel writers inserted into the life of Christ.

- ▶ When Jesus said he was the "Son of God," he did not mean to be taken literally. New Testament language of this kind, as in referring to Jesus as the "Lamb" or "Word" of God, is metaphorical.

- ▶ Some portions of the Gospel of Thomas, a text that church authorities have always considered spurious, are earlier and more authentic than the four New Testament Gospels.

- ▶ Jesus never uttered any of the numerous denunciations of the Pharisees found in the New Testament. These sentiments were put in Jesus' mouth by 1st century church writers who considered the Pharisees their competition.

- ▶ Jesus may have been crucified by mistake. History suggests that the Romans regularly rounded up dissidents and executed them without trial. Jesus may "accidentally" have been caught in one of these periodic sweeps, suggests the Rev. Burton

Scriptures must be subjected to the same rigorous scientific scrutiny as the laws of nature; nothing could be taken on faith. One such self-confident rationalist was Thomas Jefferson. After leaving the White House, he wrote a biography of Jesus that kept many of the teachings but discarded numerous Gospel passages that, in his judgment, could not have been authentic. The true words, he said, were "imbedded as diamonds in dunghills."

Protestant scholars in Germany took the lead in the early 19th century, similarly sifting the New Testament for evidence of the flesh-and-blood Nazarene beneath the "myths." Often their Jesus turned out to be an inspirational preacher who bore a suspicious resemblance to a 19th century German. But by the 20th century, the great Protestant critic Rudolf Bultmann of Marburg University had concluded that such quests were fruitless. The Bible is so much an article of faith, so laden with unprovable events and legends, he contended in 1926, that "we can now

matter of principle, Bultmann never visited the sites in the Holy Land and totally neglected the influence of Jewish cult on Jesus—"a bad old German tradition with dangerous results," according to Martin Hengel of the University of Tübingen in West Germany. Hengel, his colleagues, and scholars elsewhere now reversing that anti-Semitic tradition, discovering that studies of Jewish cult in 1st century Palestine shed fresh light on the historical Jesus.

Tübingen's Rainer Riesner contends, for instance, that like most rabbis of the day, Christ probably preached in a pithy aphoristic style that was likely to be faithfully remembered and recorded by his followers. "There is evidence that Jesus taught his disciples to recall his teachings by heart," says Methodist Thomas C. O'Brien of New Jersey's Drew Theological School. "We have the *ipsissima verba*, the exact words of Jesus. Why should they not be reported if they hadn't been accurately remembered?"



## Religion

Archaeological finds have also added to the knowledge of New Testament happenings and brought new credence to Scripture. For example, an inscription unearthed in 1961 at Caesarea confirmed for the first time that Pilate was a 1st century Roman governor, as the Bible reports. More significantly, the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947, demonstrate a deeply ingrained 1st century Jewish belief in the imminent arrival of a Messiah-like figure and the need for spiritual renewal—teachings that anticipate Christ's message. "After the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, you could no longer say there was no historical Jesus," says Theologian Otto Betz of Tübingen, once a redoubt of Bullmannian doubters.

This new confidence was signaled in 1985 when Oxford University's E.P. Sanders proclaimed in *Jesus and Judaism*. "The dominant view today seems to be that we can know pretty well what Jesus was out to accomplish, that we can know a lot about what he said, and that those two things make sense within the world of 1st century Judaism." Thanks to historical and textual research, "in a sense we are much closer to the New Testament than scholars were 500 or 1,000 years ago," says Father James Swetnam of Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute.

What has emerged from this modern diversity of views of Scripture is, not surprisingly, a diversity of Jesuses. One can almost take one's pick.

### THE ITNERANT SAGE

For a fair number of liberal Protestant scholars, the historical Jesus was a man not unlike Gandhi, Socrates and other wandering, charismatic moralists. Those who subscribe to this theory reject the idea that Jesus was oriented toward end-of-the-world questions and apocalyptic warnings. Instead he focused on the poor, the sick, the handicapped, the injustices of the world he saw around him. "He was painfully aware of the misery of humankind," asserts James M. Robinson, noted director of Claremont's Institute for Antiquity and Christianity. "He felt he should do nothing to aggravate human misery. As long as there was a beggar without food tonight, how could he store up food in his rucksack?"

This version of the Nazarene, though clearly an empathic type, "is not a comforting figure," observes Robert Funk, founder of the Jesus Seminar and former administrator of the Society of Biblical Literature. "He's a troublemaker." Marcus Borg of Oregon State University concurs that this "subversive sage" was, like Socrates, out "to undermine the safe assumptions of conventional wisdom." That he chose to break bread with the lepers and outcasts of his day was a remarkable rejection of established Jewish mores, says Borg. Such scholars perceive a worldly revolutionary at work in the man who insisted, "The last will be first."

### THE HELLENISTIC CYNIC

An odd variation on the sage theme comes from Claremont Scholar Burton Mack, who sees Jesus as a "rather normal cynic-type figure," using the term not in the modern sense but referring to a particular school of ancient Greek philosophers, Diogenes among them, who advocated virtue and self-control. Like them, he made ample use of a biting sense of humor ("Let the dead bury their dead"). "Jesus wasn't reforming Judaism," Mack insists. "He was just taking up a Hellenistic kind of social criticism."

Mack maintains that Galilee in Jesus' day was the "epitome of a cross-cultural mix," with Roman and Hellenistic influ-

ences colliding with Jewish thought. The cultural upheaval, he argues, gave rise to questioning cynics, rather like the hippies of the '60s. He theorizes that Jesus' message was concerned with a general malaise that afflicted the land. When he spoke of the coming kingdom of God, he was not warning of the apocalypse but, in true Hellenistic fashion, urging more natural and just relationships among people of all social classes.

### THE APOCALYPTIC PROPHET

In stark contrast to the worldly reformer and sage is the notion of Jesus as a stern prophet who predicted the coming judgment of God. This Jesus, unlike the more secular versions, had a keen sense of

## THE MIRACLES



THE MARRIAGE OF CANA, HISPANO-FLEMISH, LATE 15TH CENTURY  
Though modern thinkers doubt Jesus' powers, opponents during his own lifetime did not

# THE CRUCIFIXION



CRUCIFIXION BY GRAHAM SUTHERLAND, CIRCA 1946

"They died so that we may live" was a common Jewish expression 2,000 years ago, reports a historian

his mission and knew that his death would fulfill it. He was clearly influenced by John the Baptist's preaching of repentance and perhaps by the apocalyptic warnings of the Essenes, the Jewish sect that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Some of those who subscribe to this image emphasize the dozens of places in the Gospels where Jesus refers to the forthcoming kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven, in which righteousness and peace would prevail. In some instances he directly relates the role of king to himself, in the most famous passage telling Pilate at his trial that "my kingship is not of this world."

However, as with many matters in New Testament criticism, things are not so simple as they might seem. "Jesus expected a radical transformation of the world and that this would involve the coming of a heavenly figure," says Adela Yarbro Collins of the University of Notre Dame. But, she adds, "Jesus did not believe himself to be this figure." In this liberal interpretation, the disciples experienced Jesus as risen from the dead and became convinced that Jesus himself was the heavenly person who was to come. They then introduced this novel idea into Jesus' teaching.

## THE INSPIRED RABBI

The stress on Jewish studies among modern New Testament scholars has produced a striking vision of Jesus as a rabbinical genius whose teachings were very much in keeping with the liberal Jewish scholarship of his day. "He represented a humanistic trend in Judaism that was then developing out of the liberal wing of the School of Hillel," argues Israeli historian David Flusser of the Jerusalem School for the Study of the Synoptic Gospels, a group of 15 Jewish and Christian scholars. What Jesus sought, says Flusser, was a Judaism purified of resentments and hatred. "He wanted a feeling of love and understanding and identification with one's fellow human beings."

The Jerusalem scholars believe that the Jesus of history is highly accessible once the Greek Gospels have been translated back into Hebrew, the language in which they say the Nazarene preached. "When you read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount [in Hebrew], you feel you are right back there, hearing a rabbi speaking," marvels the Jerusalem School's director, David Bivin, a U.S.-born Christian. Thus, he says, "Anything that we can't translate

back into Hebrew is suspect for us."

In fact, the translating process has led the Jerusalem team to the unusual conclusion that the Gospel of Luke is the oldest and closest to Jesus' original words, whereas most conventional scholars gives that distinction to Mark. Unlike most experts, they also believe that Jesus' sayings and actions were first recorded in a now lost Hebrew document—written a few years of his death on the Cross, put down by his followers decades later.

While the Jewish members of the school do not accept Jesus as the Messiah, they do believe that the man from Galilee might well have seen himself in that light. In fact, a number of lesser religious figures of Jesus' era also believed this about themselves. As for Jesus' death, Flusser interprets it within a motif of martyrdom that stemmed from the Maccabees, rather than from the belief that the Crucifixion would take away the sins of the world, "I am sure," says Flusser. "That there were many Jews, when Jesus was crucified, who believed this innocent victim of man cruelty would stop the anger of God against the people of Israel. 'They die that we may live' is a common Jewish idea."

## THE CLASSIC JESUS

A broad spectrum of scholars see no compelling intellectual reason to reject large portions of the Gospels, and find new inspiration in the lessons of Jewish studies and archaeology. For them, no single image of Jesus will do. These thinkers see Jesus as both apocalyptic prophet and reforming sage, as purifier of Judaism and builder of a new order. Advocates range from hard-line Fundamentalists and moderate Evangelicals, who all along have deemed the Gospels historically trustworthy, to moderate liberals who use higher criticism but have become skeptical about skepticism.

Among the latter is Peter Stuhlmacher of Tübingen, who was trained by one of Bultmann's followers. Says he: "As a Western Scripture scholar, I am inclined to doubt these [Gospel] stories, but as a historian I am obliged to take them as reliable." He now tells his own students, "The biblical texts as they stand are the best hypothesis we have until now to explain what really happened."

Scholars like Stuhlmacher make no excuses and seek no secularized explanation for the miracles of the New Testament. "The historian has to take into account that Jesus' opponents conceded that he *did* perform miracles," notes F.F. Bruce of Manchester University in England, a leading evangelical exegete. He adds that if Jesus was God, as he claimed to be, "miracles are what one would expect."

Conservatives also make a historical case for the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Dean John Rodgers of Pennsylvania's Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry points out that St. Paul's account of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection (1 Corinthians 15) was written only two decades after the events and drew on prior accounts. Says Rodgers: "This is the sort of data that historians of antiquity drool over."

Wide differences over how to see the historical Jesus cause considerable friction in the academic world. The sniping often focuses on methodology. A favorite criterion for critics who try to sort out the supposed actual words of Jesus from the inauthentic is "dissimilarity," a principle canonized by Bultmann and widely used by the Jesus Seminar, the controversial group that puts the authenticity of Gospel sayings to the vote.

According to this method, a text can be deemed reliable only if it contrasts with the thinking of both contemporary Jews and the first Christians: the presumption is that a saying that sounds odd or unique is unlikely to have been fabricated by the Gospel writer. For example, the hero in the famous parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-35) is not a Jew but a detested foreigner with a false religion. This surprising element makes the story distinct and, in the opinion of the Jesus Seminar, more likely to be authentic, especially since it emphasizes that the kingdom of God belongs to the outcast.

But critics of this methodology complain that it produces a Jesus who is uprooted from his Jewish surroundings and at odds with early Christianity. The Jerusalem School is particularly distressed. In 1986 it issued a stinging two-page statement tearing into the Jesus Seminar for discarding anything in the Gospels that it considered Hebraic in origin.

Another area of controversy focuses on apparent contradictions among the Gospels. For instance, while *Luke* and *Mark* report that Jesus categorically forbade divorce, *Matthew* says he made an exception in cases of adultery. Liberal

scholars would say that one version got the facts wrong. Conservatives treat such discrepancies as either insignificant or readily explainable. "It is fair to say that all the alleged inconsistencies among the Gospels have received at least plausible resolutions," concludes an international panel of 34 Evangelical scholars in the 1987 report *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*.

Most of the methods of analysis used by liberal New Testament critics represent an attempt to be scientific and rigorous about historical fact. But to many theologians, that effort is wrong-minded from the very start. Any approach that begins by rejecting the miraculous and the supernatural "has no hope of coming to terms with the texts," argues Oden of Drew Theological School. "Science must stick to its own field of competence," concurs Monsignor Richard K. Malone, a professor of moral theology at the Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Massachusetts.

Others complain that the methods used by critics can never be as objective as they sometimes claim. This was a major charge leveled by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, the Vatican's doctrinal overseer, in an important U.S. address last January. Ratzinger said many scholars make the "false claim" that they have found exact scientific methods for showing how the traditions about Jesus developed. He insists that such work is, by its nature, subjective, relative and arbitrary. "Pure objectivity is an absurd abstraction," says the Cardinal. "It is not the uninvolved [person] who comes to knowledge. Rather, interest itself is a requirement for the possibility of coming to know."

Ratzinger's attack was not just another academic lecture.

## THE RESURRECTION



THE RESURRECTION BY EL GRECO, 16TH CENTURY  
St. Paul's account, written within 20 years of Christ's death, provides "the sort of data that historians drool over"

## Religion

since he speaks officially for the church. Liberal New Testament scholarship, with its shredding of the Gospels, poses distinct problems for organized religion. Most Protestant groups in the West have been deeply divided by it. Indeed, America's huge Southern Baptist Convention is close to civil war on the subject and is squeezing out employees who express the slightest twinge of doubt about Gospel fact.

Roman Catholicism has just begun to grapple with the awareness that liberal scholarship may pose a threat to dogma.

"Sometimes I ask my Catholic counterparts why they must make all the same mistakes in 20 years when we Protestant theologians needed over 200 years," jests Tübingen's Hengel. Conservative Catholics hope Ratzinger will strike at this threat, but the Cardinal is said to oppose a return to Rome's earlier proclamations on the Bible's complete historical reliability. He seems to prefer intellectual counter-offensives to decrees and crackdowns.

Church struggles aside, what does the work of liberal biblical scholars mean to the ordinary believer, the average person in the pew? So far, not much. Most of the discussions have taken place within the confines of the academic world. And when New Testament experts publish their theories, they tend to turn out highly technical tomes that only fellow specialists could, or would want to, read.

Unfortunately, the implicit assumption of many higher critics is that the Gospels are too complex for the average reader to understand properly, since they mingle fact with myth and imaginative editing. The critics spin out "secret interpretations that no one knows without a Ph.D.," snaps Paul Mickey, a conservative at Duke University. Says Father John Nuvone of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome: "A kind of intellectualist bias has grown up; unless you are aware of the very latest academic theory about the Bible, you might as well not read it." The result is a dangerous gap between the thinking at elite universities and the beliefs of thriving congregations.

The workaday Christian who does make the effort to delve into the findings of the critics will probably be frustrated. After more than a century of immense ef-

fort, surprisingly little has been settled concerning the Gospels. A riot of discord persists over which passages might be deciding so, not to mention over the fundamental issue of who Jesus was. One eminent theologian, Yale University's George Lindbeck, finds the specialists' theories "mutually unintelligible" and not particularly helpful. The theories are also unstable. Funk admits that the "data base" of sayings being developed by his Jesus Seminar will no doubt have to be re-

Claremont. He believes that Christianity would be greatly enriched "if somehow the positive aspects of Jesus' life could be conveyed to the person in the pew."

Many such thinkers downplay the idea that Jesus was God, let alone a member of a complex theological partnership called the Trinity. They emphasize his human qualities, in the hope that believers might better identify with him. But will most people be inspired by this sort of Jesus, who is so different from the Christ of the New Testament, who has captivat-

ed artists and peasants alike over the centuries? Will they want to stake their lives on a person about whom so little is certain and whose life is only dimly divine?

One of the respected voices in England, calling for moderation, Canon Harvey, remembers a mentor remarking that in any historical investigation, "if you tear up the only evidence you've got, you can say anything you like." That is not a bad one-sentence summary of what has happened to higher biblical criticism. In fact, just about anything is said nowadays. Most churchgoers will prefer the assertion of Dean Robert Meyers of California's Fuller Theological Seminary that "faith depends on a robust Jesus—tangible, real, vital—and a robust view that the Jesus available to us in the Gospels was the Jesus of history."

Indeed, one major lesson in the ruckus over Scorsese's *Last Temptation* is that believers do care about the historical

Jesus and urgently want him to square with the figure they know through faith. They are not likely to be stirred by the less-than-robust Jesuses resulting from higher criticism. The piling up of sheer historical facts about the Galilean, however, is not sufficient. Even a clearer, more traditional Jesus of history is inadequate if he does not evoke spiritual awe. "We can, of course, discuss our different pictures of the historical Jesus until the end of time," says Tübingen's Hengel, "but to examine the biblical texts and fail to deal with questions about the truth of faith is quite uninteresting." If Jesus is uninteresting, whether in a movie or a scholarly reconstruction of the Gospels, no one will follow him.

—By Richard N. Ostling  
Reported by Michael P. Harris/New York  
Martin Levin/Jerusalem and James Willworts/Los Angeles

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD



CHRIST IN MAJESTY BY HANS MEMLING, MID-15TH CENTURY

Will people be inspired by a merely human Galilean?  
If Jesus is only dimly divine, will people stake their lives on him?

worked by the next generation. At conservative Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary near Boston, David Wells complains, "The machinery has ground its material—the biblical text—so fine that it yields nothing."

In the end, does the search for the Jesus of history have any relevance for believers? Some thinkers, like Bultmann before them, are content to distinguish between a Christ of faith, who is knowable, and a historical Jesus, who is not. Other liberals, however, are searching fervently for a real-life Jesus, whether sage or prophet, to fill what they see as an urgent need for spiritual nourishment and a renewed impetus for social reform. "Jesus may be one of the finest persons who ever lived, but the average person doesn't have any access to him," says Robinson of



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## People



Shifting the sands of the Wheel of Time: the Venerable Lobsang Samten, left, and an assisting lama at work on their mandala in New York City

Not much alarms a lama, but the New York City subway is not conducive to meditation. Still, a contingent of Tibetan monks, led by the Venerable **Lobsang Samten**, one of the four personal attendants of Tibet's **Dalai Lama**, has been straphanging its way to the American Museum of Natural History for a month now. There they are spinning colored sand, a few grains at a time, into the sprawling Wheel of Time, a

centuries-old intricate design of Sanskrit, flowers, animals and 702 symbols for Buddhist deities. The rare sand mandala, 7 ft. across, is being prepared as part of a contemplative process, and if tradition is followed, it will be whisked into oblivion after its completion on Aug. 22. With the lamas' permission, however, the museum is looking for ways to maintain the delicate wheel and its thin layers of sand, which are endangered by even mild gusts of air conditioning. "Technology will decide if it is to be preserved," says Lobsang Samten. Until then, it will be nothing to sneeze at.

So, did Diana do it or didn't she? Rumor has it that, as a seventh anniversary gift, the Princess of Wales presented her husband **Charles** with a made-to-order video production of *All I Ask of You*, a love song from *The Phantom of the Opera*. And the solo star of the tape? Diana herself—dancing onstage at Her Majesty's Theater, where *Phantom* is enjoying its phenomenal run. One London tabloid quoted an insider as saying that the mother of Princes **William**, 6, and **Henry**, 3, "looked very good, very profes-

sional." The ever discreet manager of the theater insists Diana's performance never happened. Still, Buckingham Palace later confirmed that a video of Diana dancing at the

can tennis hope. The 18-year-old has been bumping players down the rankings since he began the year at 25th. Last week he displaced **Boris Becker** as the world's fourth-best player. But

there is little rancor over Agassi, whose unorthodox denim shorts are specially tailored by Nike. Unlike some previous tennis brats, Agassi is shockingly nice. He applauds not only good calls by umpires but also good shots by opponents. For him, winning isn't everything. His Christian faith, he says, is "No. 1 in my life." Earlier this year, the trim 155-pounder skipped Wimbledon because, he insists, "I want to get stronger." There will be major screaming when he does.



Pulling rank: Andre Agassi forges ahead

theater had been made "for her private use." Guess it'll never air on MTV.

Who let that bleached-blond punk on the tennis court? That's what the tennis world is screaming about **Andre Agassi**, the latest great Ameri-

Once upon a time, when **Yasser Arafat** was young, he stalked the world's travel spots as a tourist. A tourist? "Yes, as a tourist. Not as a terrorist," says the chairman of the P.L.O. with a loud laugh. In an interview in this month's *Playboy*, Arafat, 59, talks fondly of his prerevolutionary days "I was once very rich. I used to go to Europe... Lebanon was just a stop on the way then. I used to go there to shop." The Palestinian leader



Diana with William and Henry

revealed that he was born not in Jerusalem, as most of his biographies state, but in Gaza. As for his life as an ex-capitalist, he admits that once "I had four cars. Nobody believes that, but I did. I had Chevrolets, and I had a Thunderbird and a Volkswagen." Those were the days. Now he has to deal with armored personnel carriers.

Eddie Murphy was not amused. Last month **Armond White**, film critic for the Brooklyn-based *City Sun*, a weekly with a predominantly black readership, panned Murphy's *Coming to America* as a movie by a "man who lost his roots." He blasted the film's burlesque of a black-awareness rally and said the superstar probably feels that "the very idea of the political expression of Black pride is absurd." Murphy replied by buying three pages of the *City Sun* last week. Under the letterhead of his production company, he wrote: "The fact that the movie has sold \$81.2 million in tickets as of July 25th indicates that I must have some understanding of the

tastes, morals and values of the Black community." Money talks.

Tracy Chapman never expected her songs on poverty,



Talking about a revolution: Tracy Chapman

racism and social problems to sell. Said she: "I never thought I would get a contract with a major record label." But a classmate of hers at Tufts University brought Chapman to the attention of his father **Charles Koppelman**, co-founder of a large music publisher. Said

Koppelman: "Her songs were wonderful melodies with important lyrics. That was enough. But when I saw her in front of an audience! When she smiled, everyone smiled. When she was serious, you could hear a pin drop." Koppelman in turn brought Chapman to Elektra/Asylum. Last week her first album, *Tracy Chapman*, was lodged at No. 4 (with a bullet) on *Billboard*'s best-sellers chart. Quite a feat for a record with a cut called *Talkin' Bout a Revolution*.

Play one memorable goody-goody role and everyone expects you to become Julie Andrews. Ever since **Meg Tilly** received an Oscar nomination for playing a young nun in *Agnès of God*, audiences have expected a cloistered shyness from the actress. Surprise, surprise. They will find a titillating Tilly in her new movie *Girl on a Swing*, based on the 1980 novel by **Richard Adams** (*Watership Down*, *Shardik*). The actress says she had been working so hard on her role that when the accompanying photograph



Changing habits: Meg Tilly

was taken, "I was still in character. If I was me, I think I would have said, 'Wait a minute.'" It's still a welcome change of habit.

—By Howard G. Chua-Eoan

## Coming Home to Roost

"I arrived as a child," said the slight, bespectacled young man. "Now I go back as an adult." As quickly as his Cessna 172 swooped down near Red Square on May 28, 1987, **Mathias Rust**, 20, was out of Moscow's Lefortovo Prison last week and on Lufthansa Flight 1391 to Frankfurt. By order of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the West German's four-year sentence for illegal entry, violation of international flight rules and hotheadism was cut short. He was free, thanks to what TASS described as the "humaneness" of the Soviet Union.

Seated in first class on the plane home, Rust again told reporters that his flight across 500 miles of tightly defended Soviet airspace had been part of a campaign for improved East-West relations. "It was worth my freedom, my liberty," He admitted,

however, that it was "not responsible" and that he would not do it again.

When a TASS interviewer asked him if he had now learned to travel "in a legal way, with the necessary visa in the passport," the West German answered, "Certainly"—with a smile. But a bit of the boy remained evident in the

man. On the flight home, Rust silently mouthed words to a song in his head. And when an admiring flight attendant gave him a plastic plane, he gave it a couple of spins through the air.

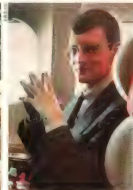
Lefortovo, the czarist fortress now used by the KGB, had not been bad. Said Rust: "A year ago, people thought you would be tortured in prison. They thought, 'KGB, good heavens!' Now, we see there is no torture, no adverse condi-

tions." In fact, said the young man, he gained weight in jail. With so much time on his hands, Rust exercised regularly, repaired books for the prison library and worked on his Russian. He also practiced English with a Soviet cellmate. "It could have been worse," he said. After all, he might have been shot out of the sky. As it is, several people are indebted to Rust. The stunt was an excuse for **Mikhail Gorbachev** to purge

the Soviet military of opponents to his reforms. It also proved to be a political boost for **Hans-Dietrich Genscher**, the West German Foreign Minister whose trip to Moscow two weeks ago paved the way for Rust's release. But Rust and his family will gain too. Upon his arrival in Frankfurt, the young pilot was secreted by *Stern* magazine. The Rusts have sold exclusive rights to their story to the publication for an unspecified, but assuredly healthy, fee. —H.G.C.



There and back again: Rust in Moscow in 1987; and flying to Frankfurt last week



# Space

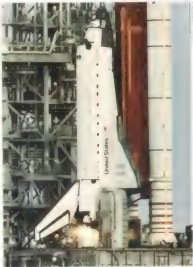
## The Frustrations of *Discovery*

*A glitch-prone shuttle casts a mood of disappointment over NASA*

When the gleaming white space orbiter *Discovery* moved onto the launch pad at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida early last month, it became both a soaring symbol and a thorny trial for NASA. On one hand, the 122-ft-tall orbiter represented the agency's successful recovery from the tragic explosion 2½ years ago of *Challenger*, the last manned U.S. space mission. *Discovery* was also a test: Could NASA, operating this time around with extraordinary caution and under intense scrutiny, pull off an A-O.K., on-time launch? That question has caused growing frustration in the space agency.

Just a fraction of a second before *Discovery*'s three main engines were to ignite for a critical 20-second test firing last week, a computer detected a problem with a valve that regulates flow in cooling lines; the computer aborted the test. That was the fifth postponement of the engine test in the past two weeks. The latest delay may cause the agency to further set back its launch date, now scheduled for mid-September, by as much as a week. While John Talone, who manages work flow on the *Discovery*, believes a September date is still realistic, some agency officials have been saying privately that the accretion of glitches might push the launch into October. A few have deeper concerns. Says one NASA official: "There's a sense that we can't afford to have another accident, or it will mean the end of the shuttle program."

After last week's disappointment,



Slow countdown: the orbiter on its launch pad

Navy Captain Frederick Hauck, *Discovery*'s commander, issued a carefully worded statement to the press: "Although we were disappointed that today's test did not go full term, we were impressed with the professional manner with which the launch team responded to the situation." While Talone believes that morale remains high, he admitted that "there is a certain amount of frustration because we thrive on doing these things completely and getting them done."

Two of the five aborted engine tests so far have been due to fueling problems, specifically in lines that carry liquid hydrogen from ground equipment to the tank. After two of the failures, several hours were required to unload more than half a million gallons of liquid hydrogen and oxygen from *Discovery*'s tanks before technicians could examine problems. NASA engineers are not certain exactly what caused last week's problem. Said Joseph Lombardo, who oversees the shuttle's main-engine project at Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama: "We don't know whether it was a faulty indication or really a malfunction in the valve." At week's end NASA officials suspected that a sensor had been affected by excessive engine cooling during the countdown. They planned to replace the valve and the sensor monitoring it. This week the agency was to schedule another test firing.

Whether or not the next test succeeds, other problems threaten to slow the countdown. Massive solid-fuel booster rockets like those on the shuttle must undergo a critical test, scheduled for Aug. 20 at the Morton Thiokol facility in Utah; the failure of a seal on a booster was responsible for the *Challenger* disaster. In addition, *Discovery* has a pressure-vent-line leak in one of its orbital maneuvering system engine pods, which came to light several weeks ago. NASA says repairs to the OMS pod, which involve cutting through a bulkhead, could delay the launch anywhere from a week to two months. NASA insists that the repairs and continuing caution during the countdown will be sufficient to fly the orbiter with confidence. Perhaps, but *Discovery*'s trip into space may be farther off than anyone expected.

—By I.D. Reed

Reported by Clem Garelik/Washington

## Milestones

**SUED.** John McLaughlin, 61, pugnacious host of *The McLaughlin Group* television talk show and Washington editor of *National Review* magazine; for sexual harassment and discrimination; in Washington. Linda Dean accused McLaughlin of making advances and offensive remarks while she worked at his production company from 1987 through last April. McLaughlin is married to Secretary of Labor Ann Dore McLaughlin.

**PLEADED GUILTY.** Stuart Karl, 35, producer of Jane Fonda's exercise videos, to illegally channeling more than \$170,000 to Democratic political campaigns, principally Gary Hart's 1984 and 1988 presidential races, in Santa Ana, Calif. In a plea bargain, Karl admitted to two counts of violating federal election laws.

**DIED.** Raymond Carver, 50, hard-bitten poet and short-story writer and a leading prac-

itioner of the spare American style known as minimalism; of lung cancer, in Port Angeles, Wash. Carver overcame bouts of alcoholism and labored as a sawmill operator and janitor, the inspiration for his stories chronicling the lives of the working poor. His story collections include *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?* and *Cathedral*.

**DIED.** Marisa Bellisario, 53, Italy's best-known businesswoman, who rescued the giant state-owned Italtel Telecommunications from bankruptcy in the early 1980s; of cancer, in Turin. Bellisario turned around the Olivetti Corp. of America while president in 1979. Returning home to Italtel, she slashed 11,000 jobs and converted annual losses of \$133 million into a profit in three years. She became the symbol of Italian businesswomen, working in Milan but spending weekends with her husband in Turin.

**DIED.** Joe Carcione, 73, television's gravel-voiced "Greengrocer," who offered millions of consumers advice on fruits and vegetables; of cancer, in Burlingame, Calif. For 14 years, his syndicated spots reached more than 60 stations.

**DIED.** John Dearden, 80, Roman Catholic cardinal and progressive church voice, who presided over Detroit's archdiocese from 1958 to 1981; in Southfield, Mich. He was an advocate of the Second Vatican Council's revisions of Catholic practices, such as the departure from the Latin Mass and greater emphasis on the laity.

**DIED.** Florence Eldridge, 86, Broadway and film actress whose star turns with husband Fredric March included *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *Another Part of the Forest*; in Santa Barbara, Calif. Her 1956 performance in *Long Day's Journey into Night* won a Tony nomination for Best Actress.

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# Getting Ready

**With six weeks to go, America's athletes pump up for their moment in Seoul**

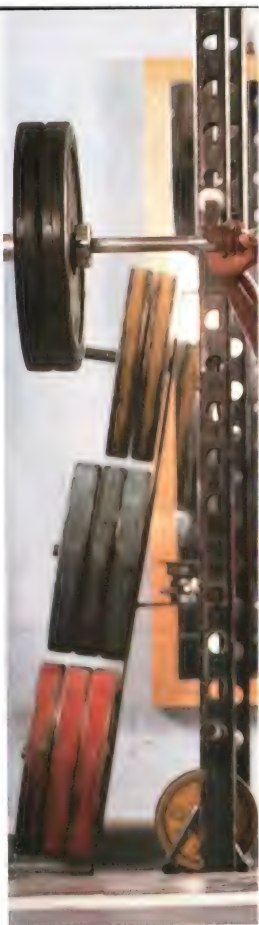
The demands are never ending, the sacrifices outrageous. Relentless workouts, a life lived in sweat. For what? A Greek traveler named Pausanias more than 1,800 years ago wrote of the "unique divinity" that cloaks the Olympics. The mystery may never be phrased better. The lure persists, transfixing competitors, enticing them to devote their lives to it. It leads women like Janet Evans to spend their youth in pools, logging the numbing laps, and men like Tim Daggett to suffer through injury after injury. All for a touch of that divinity.

Perhaps no trial is greater than the constant and solitary hardening of will. And few champions must strive for it in a solitude as perfect as Jackie Joyner-Kersey's. Four years ago, she narrowly lost the gold medal because a hamstring pull hobbled her in the 800-meter run. Now she has so greatly outdistanced the field in the heptathlon, that epic ordeal in seven acts, that the only rival in the corner of her eye is the memory of her last triumph. Since 1984 she has set the heptathlon world record and bettered it twice; she has shared the world record in the long jump. Regardless of the success and the mental and physical cost of its purchase, the work goes on. No number of records will substitute for an Olympic gold.

**Photographs for TIME by Neil Leifer**

JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEY, TRACK AND FIELD

"I just take things in stride and realize where my blessings come from. The reason I am where I am is because I put a lot of hard work into it, and I don't abuse it."









JANET EVANS, SWIMMING

**"Actually, I don't think I'm that little anymore. Even though I'm small boned, I think that's a good size. Besides, I don't think it makes a difference. It's something I've had to put up with."**

She doesn't weigh much more than a long drink of water, but even that is something of a victory. "I'm 5 ft. 5 in., and 105 now. Yay!" laughs 16-year-old Freestyler Janet Evans. When she nearly made the 1986 World Championship team at 14, she stood a towering 4 ft. 10 in. and weighed about 80 lbs. soaking wet, which is most of the time. "Everyone knew me because of my size, but I just wanted to be recognized as a good swimmer." That recognition is piling up almost as fast as the 300 to 400 laps she does daily. Last year she became one of only a handful of swimmers to set three world records in a single year, in the 400-, 800- and 1,500-meter freestyle events. At Seoul she will compete in the 400 and 800 freestyle and the 400 individual medley. "A lot of people say, 'Look, you're the American hope,' or whatever, but I don't look at it that way," says Evans. "I'm swimming mostly for myself, and if I concentrate on what I have to do, then doing well for America will come as a by-product."



TERRY SCHROEDER, WATER POLO

**"When you leave, you want to make sure you gave 100% and that you have no excuses."**

Kicking, scratching and dunking are part of the daily ordeal of water-polo players. At age 29, with a wife and a career to attend to, Terry Schroeder might have done without the punishment. But Schroeder, captain of the U.S. team for the second consecutive Olympics, is haunted by the silver medal he and the squad won in Los Angeles four years ago. Haunted by silver? Leading the top-ranked Yugoslavs by a score of 5-2 in the final game and needing an outright win, the U.S. team got caught in a riptide. The Americans gave up three goals in the last ten minutes and had to settle for a tie and second place. "We were so close in '84, and at this point, we don't want to leave any stone unturned," says Schroeder. The memory "keeps coming back," which explains why he is preparing to do the same.

JOE FARGIS, EQUESTRIAN

**"If you can sit there quietly, the horse is going to perform to its maximum. I don't have to do much if I'm riding well. I just have to sit there, not interfering with the animal."**

Listen to Joe Fargis long enough, and it is easy to forget he will even be at the Olympics. It is not just that the rider who jumped to two gold medals in Los Angeles is self-effacing; he also gives the lion's share of the credit to his partner. "With horses, they are the athletes. You're hoping you've trained the horses to the best of your ability, so that on the day of the event you can call on them and they're going to do exactly what you want—but that doesn't always happen." Because so much rides on the horse, as it were, Fargis claims the odds are against another gold. After all, he says, "you're dealing with a living, breathing creature, which has a mind of its own." In 1984 his mount was Touch of Class, and the 15-year-old former racehorse may appear in the show-ring in Seoul too, although Fargis' two faultless rounds at the Olympic trials in Bridgehampton, N.Y., were aboard Mill Pearl (pictured), a nine-year-old Irish-bred mare. "I'm quite lucky—quite lucky—to have two such horses, two great horses, at the same time," says Fargis. "It doesn't happen often."



EDWIN MOSES, TRACK AND FIELD

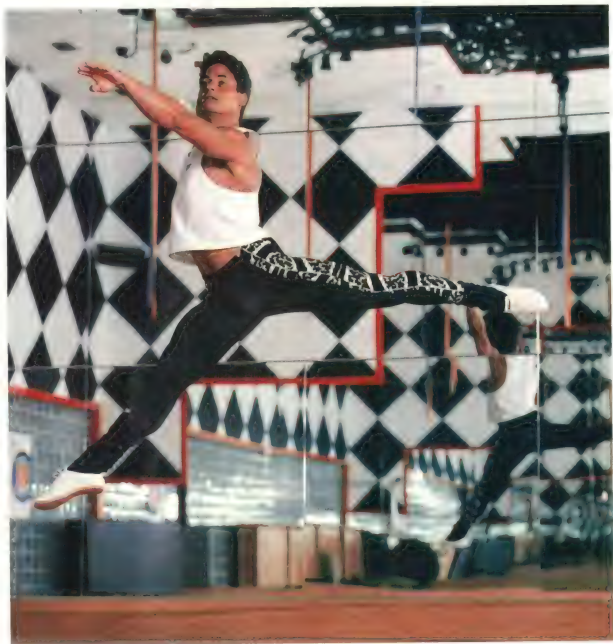
**"It's been my life for 20 years. It's what I've had the privilege of doing. I dread the day when I have to hang up my spikes. In fact, I probably never will."**

He doth bestride the hurdles like a colossus. Edwin Moses, world-record holder in the 400-meter hurdles, gold medalist of the 1976 and 1984 Olympics, owner of a historic string of 122 straight race victories spanning the years from 1977 to 1987; Moses the grand old man of the track has dominated his event more ruthlessly than any other Olympic athlete of the day. His winning streak was broken last year by fellow American Danny Harris in Madrid, and Moses lost one other race shortly thereafter because of a rare fall. But since then he has reasserted his authority, winning every race he has run, including the World Championships in Rome and the Olympic trials. To keep his edge, the 32-year-old athlete monitors his training with a personal computer that charts his interval times and heart rates. Says he: "My background is in science—physics and engineering. And I read a lot about biomechanics and kinesiology." Just how brilliant a student Moses is may soon be clear: no man has ever won the same Olympic hurdle event three times.









GREG LOUGANIS, DIVING

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**"I think I'm enjoying it more now than I have in the past. Before, it was definitely something I was good at. It wasn't something I was particularly enjoying."**

---

He never seems more at home than in midair. The gold medals Greg Louganis won in Los Angeles in the 10-meter platform and springboard events were the pinnacle of his years in the sport. Now 28, he is spreading his wings more. He has begun acting in movies, and last October he brought his preternatural poise to the stage, making his professional dance debut at the Indiana Repertory Theater. Still, he puts in two diving sessions a day. The dancing, he says, helps too: "Diving is a very anaerobic sport, and someone might question the validity of aerobic training for an anaerobic sport, but it's good for divers to be well-rounded athletes." Especially with a flock of talented young Chinese divers now setting their sights on the sport's soaring eagle.



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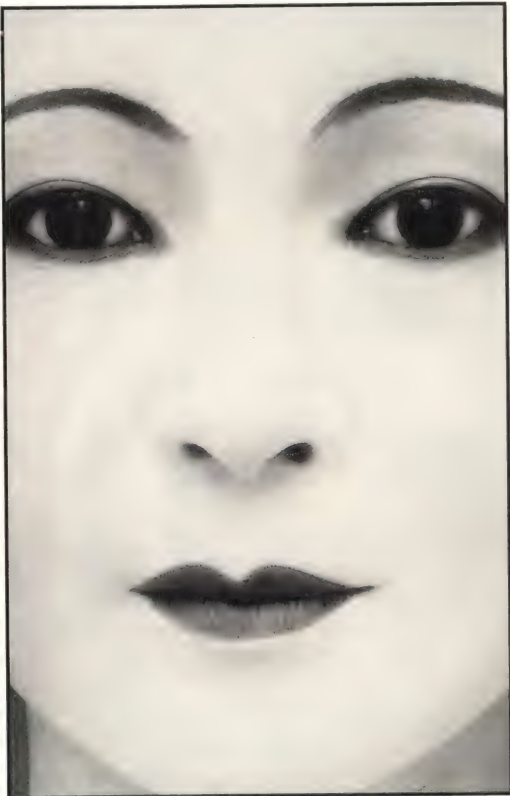
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TIM DAGGETT, GYMNASTICS

**"It was one of the best vaults I had ever done in my life—very high and very far. When I landed, the leg just exploded, and I thought, 'Not again.' "**

The purity of an athlete's commitment does not guarantee success. For two years Tim Daggett, whose perfect 10 clinched the U.S. team's gold in Los Angeles, has bulldozed his way through the agony of injury. He has faced ankle surgery, a ruptured disk and nerve problems in his left arm. The worst came ten months ago after a vault at the World Championships in Rotterdam. When he landed disproportionately on his left leg, two bones simply snapped, severing an artery. His leg saved by an emergency operation, Daggett refused to stop: "I don't want to look back at any time for any reason and say, 'What if?'" Last week at the U.S. trials he had just scored a 9.9 on the pommel horse, then reinjured his leg dismounting from the rings. He will not compete in Seoul.



CARL LEWIS, TRACK AND FIELD

**"I've matured over four years.  
I think anyone over a four-year period is going to adjust,  
no matter who they are, especially from 23 to 27."**

There is no shortage of things for Carl Lewis to think about. The sprinter and long jumper who racked up four gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympics will certainly compete again in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter, the long jump and the 4 × 100-meter relay. Then there is the competition: Ben Johnson, the Jamaican turned Canadian speedster, has taken a little wind out





Lewis' sleek sails, winning their last five matchups in the 100, including a historic race in Rome in which he set the current world record of 9.83 sec. And finally, there is the old problem, the image problem. Lewis could wind up with a hoard of gold, but he would like to be recalled with something other than indifference. So he hopes to erase the Los Angeles mem-

ory of the jumper who, his gold assured, passed on his last four jumps instead of taking a crack at Bob Beamon's coveted world record of 29 ft. 2½ in. He also wants to dispel the image of the 1984 prima donna who sat by while his manager boasted that "we think Carl will be bigger than Michael Jackson." History plus Ben Johnson: a lot to concentrate the mind.

## Essay

Tom Callahan

# If Perspiration Could Be Quantified

In his basement an American canoeist who has converted a small coal bin into a stagnant river crouches on one knee and endlessly paddles nowhere. His sloshing is a nighttime sound of the neighborhood. A roller skate wedged beneath his forward foot simulates the bobbing boat. Old mirrors of every shape, rescued from dressers and garage sales, are suspended all around. In each of them, he checks his technique against the home movies he has taken of the Rumanians and Swedes. This is the Olympian getting ready.

The Olympian is distinguished from the garden-variety athlete, at least in the U.S., by a fairly uniform obscurity. Except for two weeks every four years, the Olympian is roundly ignored. Thanks to lavish surpluses from the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, amateur facilities and finances have improved. But even in the glamorous—meaning profitable, marketable—pursuits like track and field, serious money touches just a few. Maybe only the top performer in only a third of the events is truly thriving. Most Olympians just get by.

The professional baseball and football players of fortune and renown are inclined to minimize their natural talent, preferring to have it said they got the most out of a modest allotment. It's generally not true. A good number, maybe even a majority, are doing things that basically come very easy to them. Once, in an extraordinary fit of conscience—just for an instant—the basketball star Elvin Hayes actually refused his paycheck out of a sense that he hadn't earned it. After nearly decapitating Jack Nicklaus during a pro-am tournament, a wretched amateur golfer wondered with a sigh if Nicklaus ever shanked one. Softly, almost apologetically, the game's ultimate champion replied, "Three times, when I was ten."

Which is not to say Hayes and Nicklaus never sweated. But if perspiration could be quantified, broken down and quantified, the Olympian probably distills the purest athletic effort by the drop. The most arcane sports, which include many of the Olympic events, are nearly always learned late and hard, in the U.S. after playing baseball and football for a while. Speed does come naturally to the beautiful racehorses of the running track, like Florence Griffith Joyner, though at the world-class level science kicks in and a specialized knowledge is required. Hobbled running backs reach uncertainly for their hamstrings in panic, but sprinters know every muscle according to its isolated throb, like a subtle note of music distinguishable from all the others by some slight tone, especially now that the concert is near.

Because of the rigidly democratic procedure America employs for selecting its team, in this country the Olympic mountain has two peaks, and many of the athletes are in the process of trying to hold their bodies together after the recent trials for the second climb in September. The strain of it is as heavy as the coining and puffing of Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the regal heptathlete who has transcended her event. Almost nobody knows what in the world a heptathlete does, but almost everyone knows she is the best in the world at doing it.

Carl Lewis, alone, taking his mark in an empty stadium, strikes a gentle tableau. This is his chance to make amends

for 1984, when he only won four gold medals. In the long-limbed company of swimmers, the little tadpole Janet Evans seems to represent all the early mornings and late suppers of all the tiny racers in all the neighborhood pools. The great Olympian John Naber laughed wonderfully when someone suggested that age-group swimming is just another kind of phenobarbital prescribed by parents to drain their children of excess energy and make sure they go to Yale. But on their own, a few of the old salts, like the '84 hero Rowdy Gaines, continue to gaze longingly at the pool, as though looking out to sea.

Diving still occupies Greg Louganis but more and more so does dancing, and twelve years after Louganis won his first of three Olympic medals, mortal divers are overtaking him at last (or catching up at least). Watching Louganis in practice wear out the lift to the platform, outstaying the others by hours, makes one wonder how hard he must have toiled before eminence and elevators.

Olympians are made of stronger, not necessarily better, clay. At the same Olympic parade, such as Montreal's in

1976, the likes of the glorious Shun Fujimoto and the notorious Boris Onischenko can march into the sunlight together. The Soviet army's Major Onischenko came forever to be known as Disonischenko after the fencing segment of the modern pentathlon, when a battery was discovered in his nose cone. Like a burp at a banquet, Boris' épée went off by itself and beeped a phantom touché. The major was briskly spirited away to the U.S.S.R.

Meanwhile, on the other side of deception, the Japanese gymnast Fujimoto broke his leg at the knee near the completion of his floor exercise. Not wanting to worry his coach or teammates, he kept the torturous pain to himself ("My whole blood was boiling at my stomach") and performed wondrously on the side horse before glancing ruefully up at the rings. Everything in Fujimoto's ring routine looked normal until the grimace just before the dismount, when he compounded his fracture with a dislocated knee and crashed in a heroic heap. Last year Tim Daggett also powdered a leg bone, and the training sight of a bandaged man on the rings stirred the memory. Last week he failed to make the team.

Disonischenko is a little hard to reach these days, but Fujimoto doesn't mind updating his emotions in the calm light of all the years that have passed. Was it worth it? Would he still take to the rings? "No!" he shrieks.

The Olympians don't often look so far ahead or behind. They literally put the one foot after the other that the rest of us frequently talk about, tolerating a certain level of anguish for a special plane of excellence. They cover themselves in tape and rosin and chalk, and sometimes glory. They take off in sprays of sawdust and alight in splashes of gold. They're driven, until they're driven out. Olympians are said to have a glow about them, and not just the glow of beaded sweat. But they make others glow as well. They mention who they are and say they are getting ready to go to the Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea, and whole rooms break out in smiles. Whole countries too. ■

**They cover themselves in tape and rosin and chalk, and sometimes glory**



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# Music

## Love Among the Ruins

*In Bayreuth, a brilliantly theatrical new Ring cycle*

**T**hey booed Harry Kupfer in Bayreuth last week. To be sure, they also booed Set Designer Hans Schavernoeh and Conductor Daniel Barenboim. But the real in-vee-tive—a great, throaty vassals' chorus of opprobrium—was reserved for Kupfer, the tousle-headed East German director who had committed the unpardonable sin: staging a brilliantly theatrical production of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* that had little to do with musty tradition

lederhosen with his spare, psychologically penetrating productions of the 1950s and '60s. In 1976 French Enfant Terrible Patrice Chéreau booted it out the door entirely with a conception that updated the story to the Industrial Revolution and nascent Marxism. Now comes Kupfer, with a daring viewpoint that is as Teutonic as Wolfgang's thick Franconian accent.

As Wieland and Chéreau proved, a radical *Ring* will ultimately be accepted if

it plays "live." Kupfer found physical leitmotifs to complement the musical ones and give his production a visual as well as a musical unity. Characters do not just stand and sing; they stand and deliver, fighting with fury or embracing with abandon, falling down faint in ecstasy. As Wotan (Bass John Tomlinson) bids a sorrowing farewell to Brünnhilde (Soprano Deborah Polaski) at the end of *Die Walküre*, they both collapse facedown on the ground, overcome with emotion.

Schavernoeh's imaginative sets contribute greatly to the production's success. Like something out of George Miller's *Mad Max* movies, they depict an exhausted world where love can be found only among the ruins and the survivors get by as best they can. Hunding's hut is an underground shelter. Brünnhilde's rock, a barren stretch of moonscape, glowing radioactively. The Rhinemaidens disport themselves among the twisted remnants of what appears to be a power plant (shades of Chéreau). It is a gloomy, god-forsaken land that well suits the Schopenhauerian concept of pessimism with which Wagner suffused his text.

In *Ring* productions, concept is everything these days, at least until a new generation of heroic singers—Flagstads or Melchior—comes along. Vocally, this cycle offers only two major performances. Tenor Siegfried Jerusalem, in the title role in *Siegfried*, may lack the ideal resonance at the top, but his voice is fresh and warm, and he cuts a handsome, lithe figure as the hero. As Waltraute in *Götterdämmerung*, Waltraud Meier got the week's biggest ovation for a blazing performance.

Leading his first *Ring*, Conductor Barenboim leaves a mixed impression. His predilection for slow tempos is very much in evidence, yet occasionally he bolts precipitously, as in the final scene of *Siegfried*, when it is all that Polaski and Jerusalem can do to keep up. There is some piquant orchestral detail at times, but at others the texture is crude. Barenboim's challenge is to find a convincing, unified point of view.

No such charge can be leveled against Kupfer. In a striking final tableau, after the old order has been destroyed, he populates the stage with a crowd dressed in formal clothes—like the Bayreuth audience—mindlessly watching television as the conflagration subsides. The drowned Hagen lies unnoticed, a beached whale in black leather. Despite the music's glowing promise of redemption by love, no one seems to have learned a thing: only two innocent children make their way, hand in hand, out of the carnage. A forgetful human race ensures that, in Kupfer's moral universe, history repeats itself exclusively as tragedy. No wonder the audience booed. But never mind. In a couple of years, when they are accustomed to it, they will be cheering. —By Michael Walsh



The beginning of the end: the first scene of a grim, post-nuclear *Das Rheingold*  
"Children, create something new!" said Wagner. Kupfer got the message.

and everything to do with revivifying art.

The Salzburg Festival may be more glamorous and expensive than Bayreuth, but a new *Ring*—this is the first in five years and only the tenth ever—in the sleepy West German city is a memorable event in the world of music. It was here that Richard Wagner, music's great megalomaniac, built an acoustically perfect theater to house his revolutionary music dramas: here that he produced the first *Ring* cycle in 1876; here that Wagner, his wife Cosima and his father-in-law Franz Liszt are buried; here that Wagner's grandson Wolfgang keeps alive the sacred flame. To Wagner lovers, Bayreuth is a holy place, the *Ring* a sacred ritual and the Festspielhaus a shrine.

Yet here, too, sacrifice has become the order of the day. "Children, create something new!" ordered Wagner near the end of his life, and in the postwar period, directors have taken his exhortation literally. Wieland Wagner, Wolfgang's late brother, gave tradition a kick in the

it is presented with dramatic force and intellectual coherence. Each new *Ring* director has the obligation to seek the spirit, not necessarily the letter, of Wagner's four-opera cycle, and Kupfer, director of East Berlin's Komische Oper, is no exception. He presents a cinematic rethinking of the myth that projects the action far into a grim, post-nuclear-war future, in which gods, dwarfs, giants and humans stumble through the detritus of a lost civilization in a futile search for salvation. As stern as a Lutheran sermon yet as exciting as an action-adventure film, Kupfer's *Ring* is thrilling.

Perfect Wagnerites know that the operas are built from short musical phrases, called leitmotifs, that symbolize characters and ideas. There are themes for Siegfried's sword and Wotan's spear, for renunciation of love and for its redemption. Artfully intertwined, they underpin Wagner's own libretto, based on the sagas of Norse and Germanic legend. In presenting what the composer called a "stage-fes-

# Books

## A Billy-Goat Pining for Purity

TOLSTOY by A.N. Wilson; Norton; 548 pages; \$25

TOLSTOY: THE ULTIMATE RECONCILIATION by Martine de Courcel  
Translated by Peter Levi; Scribner's; 458 pages; \$27.50

The artistry of *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina* translates into many languages, but Leo Tolstoy the social phenomenon is strictly Russian. Most biographers take this fact for granted. A.N. Wilson spells it out in his descriptions of that vast, isolated kingdom of the 19th century in which the roles of writer and prophet were frequently indistinguishable. Martine de Courcel strikes a deeper Slavic chord when she says that Tolstoy's aim was to become a Fool of God. Count Leo was, of course, no fool, although many of his truths never got off the ground. His moralizing often seems as windy and endless as the steppes. Had he expounded his ideas about the utility of art earlier in his life, he might never have written his masterpieces of fiction.

To modern American readers, Tolstoy's life sometimes reads like a 19th century version of *Pierrot's Complaint*, in which the protagonist never stops griping that his desires are repugnant to his morals. Tolstoy's diaries and instructional writings are engorged with this seriocomic theme, a fact that led Biographer Henri Troyat to conclude more than 20 years ago that Russia's literary icon was "a billy-goat pining for purity."

De Courcel, holder of a psychology degree from the Sorbonne, latches on to this internal conflict as a dramatic device. The results are somewhat predictable and schematic. She relies heavily on the diaries of Tolstoy and his wife Sophia Andreyevna, memoirs, letters and interpretive readings of the novels and essays. These materials are tailored to fit what appears to have been a predetermined conclusion: Tolstoy reconciled his warring selves only when, ten days before dying in 1910, he fled farm and family.

Wilson, one of Britain's most accomplished comic novelists, is more relaxed about Tolstoy's contradictions and racked conscience. His imaginative approach to the mysteries of personality is a good reminder that consistency is for peanut butter, not for geniuses who exploit their conflicts in creative acts. Wilson's *Tolstoy* is the story of the literary titan's relationships with three subjects: God, Russia and women.

Tolstoy tried to resolve the first through a homegrown faith that amounted to a churchless Christianity. He shunned organized religion and city life for rustic self-sufficiency among the muzhiks (peasants) at his estate, Yasnaya Polyana (Bright Glade). He preached

more soul than any other country—that its birch avenues, its snows, its ice, its summers are all the more glorious than the manifestations of nature in more benighted countries. There is only one drawback, which is that it is completely horrible to live there."

Born in 1828 into one of Old Russia's aristocratic families, Tolstoy had the luxury of pondering the chasm between the privileged few and the impoverished masses. His early heroes were the Decembrists, a group of liberal noblemen who tried and failed to end Czar Nicholas I's tyranny. Tolstoy's first career was as a soldier in the Crimean War, where he saw a great deal of action in brothels and gambling dens. But he also wrote the accounts of the siege of Sevastopol that established his literary reputation.

Both biographers amply illustrate the heightened consciousness that made Tolstoy's journals and fiction irresistible. And painful. A week before his marriage to 18-year-old Sophia Behrs in 1862, he asked her to read his diaries. A 20-year record of wenching jumped off the pages. One entry confessed his passion for a peasant mistress only weeks before his wedding date. Twenty-eight years later, Sophia was still feeling the jolt. "I don't think I ever recovered from the shock of reading Lyovochka's diaries when I was engaged to him," she wrote in her own journal. "I can still remember the agonising pangs of jealousy, the horror of that first appalling experience of male depravity."

Countess Tolstoy's private jottings are as famous as those of her husband. Read jointly, their volumes are evidence of what Wilson calls "an atmosphere of domestic hatred perhaps unrivaled in the history of matrimony." To the usual problems of marriage, Tolstoy added his tortured asceticism. Eventually he was repulsed by all things that gave him pleasure, including the writing of great romances and the love of his wife. Yet their earlier years together had been physically satisfying and artistically fulfilling. Sophia bore 13 children in 26 years. Her editorial skills were essential to the labor and delivery of *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*. She also made sure that publishers paid top ruble.

In later years, Sophia's chief rivals were not the muzhiks or the muse but Tolstoy's disciples, led by Vladimir Chertkov, an aristocrat and former guards officer who underwent conversion to Tolstoy's Utopian doctrine of universal peace and brotherhood. In 1908 Chertkov set



against the evils of meat, alcohol, tobacco and fornication. He believed a Christian should make his own shoes and empty his own chamber pot.

De Courcel generally lets Tolstoy's feelings for his homeland emerge from his writings. Wilson sums up his subject's ambivalent love of country with a bold stroke of his own: "On the one hand, you know that you have been born into a 'God-bearing' nation, whose destiny is to keep burning the flame of truth while the other nations languish in decadence. (The truth may be Orthodox Christianity or the creeds of Marxist-Leninism, but the feeling is the same.) You know that the Russians are best at everything from poetry to gymnastics, and that they invented everything: ballet, bicycles, the internal combustion engine. You know that Russia has





# How I spent my weekend in space!

By Ryan Edwards

When Amy and I saw the movie "Space Camp," Mom and Dad said we could go to The Space and Rocket Center in Alabama where the real Space Camp is.

Boy, this place is great! I saw astronaut Wally Schirra's Mercury spacecraft and the Apollo command module that went to the Moon. A real moon rock. And stepped on a scale that showed I'd weigh 16 pounds if I walked on the Moon.

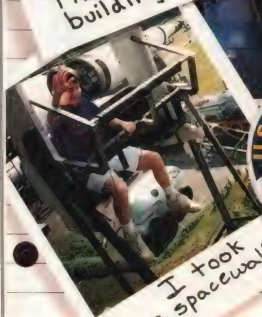
We went into this hanger-like room as big as the museum. It's the actual U.S. Space Camp. Kids in blue flightsuits were inside shuttle mockups doing "missions," with other kids

operating mission control. They looked like they were having fun. (You have to be at least in the fourth grade to go. Mom registered me for next year. Wow!)

We went into this room that spins and makes your arms and legs heavy. Dad called it a centrifuge. It was awesome. Astronauts trained in one like it. I got to jump way up in the air on the Spacewalk. I was almost as far up as the rockets.



The Space Camp building is new!



I took a spacewalk!





We crawled inside the first space station called Skylab where astronauts trained. And rode the NASA bus to see the Space Station being designed that Congress is talking about.

They have this real big theater called The SpaceDome. The screen is all around you and overhead. In "The Dream Is Alive", the astronauts float in space right in front of you. I liked this almost as much as seeing kids do neat stuff in Space Camp.

Amy got to use a robot arm and fire a rocket engine and ride in the gyro chair. I ate "astronaut ice cream." It tasted pretty good, but it wasn't cold.

Finally, we got to what I had been waiting for all day, the full-size model of the Space Shuttle. It was built by NASA for some development tests. You would not believe how big it is in real life. Mom says it's the only permanent shuttle display on Earth.

Huntsville is pretty close where we live. We spent the night at a beautiful Marriott next door before going home. Our room had a great view of the big shuttle in the air.

Thanks, Mom and Dad, for taking me. Being in space for a weekend was a real trip!



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## Books

led near Yasnaya Polyana and made himself indispensable to his teacher. As the master's literary properties came increasingly under Chertkov's control, Sophia's justifiable paranoia worsened. "Everything is a plot against me," she wrote in her diary on June 26, 1910. "It will end only with the death of this poor old man, who has been led astray by the devil Chertkov."

Four months later, after listening to his wife rummaging through his closets late at night, Tolstoy slipped out of the house with his physician, intending to live out his days in a monastery. He boarded a train, but developed a high fever at the village of Astapovo and could not go on. He was put to bed in the stationmaster's house, and word spread by telegraph that Leo Tolstoy was dying. The press and thousands of Russians began to stream toward Astapovo.

In his autobiography *Speak Memory*, Vladimir Nabokov recalls that he and his family were in Berlin when they got the news. "Good gracious," said his mother. "Time to go home." Charles Pathe, the newsreel pioneer, cabled his cameraman: TRY TO GET CLOSEUP, STATION NAME. TAKE FAMILY. WELL-KNOWN FIGURES. CAR THEY ARE SLEEPING IN. Pathe's drained images survive. Among them is Sophia pacing the platform. Having been barred from entering the station house, she tries to peer through the windows. The curtains are drawn.

There would be no more quarrels with "Lyovochka." Besides, Tolstoy had already had the last word 35 years before, when he began *Anna Karenina* with the observation that "happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."

—By R.Z. Sheppard

## Good Hand

JACK OF DIAMONDS  
by Elizabeth Spencer  
Viking, 184 pages; \$15.95

Elizabeth Spencer is often compared to another Mississippi-born writer, Eudora Welty. Sometimes Spencer's name is even mentioned in the same critical breath with Henry James. The comparisons are flattering, but to be measured against some of the best usually means never measuring up. Cold comfort then for Spencer, especially since so many writers today are overpraised on a narrower scale of accomplishment.

The author's best-known work of fiction is the novel *The Light in the Piazza* (1960), in which an American woman takes her beautiful retarded daughter to Florence. There the girl is wooed and eventually wed by a local boy. As a bastion of faith, culture and family traditions, that city seems a good place for a helpless young woman, and an evocative locale for a writer.

Italy, of course, is a favored setting of

English and American fiction in which innocents abroad are stirred by art and sensuality. Spencer continues to use the convention effectively. *The Cousins*, a story in her newest collection, *Jack of Diamonds*, could be titled *Maidenhead Revisited*. Ella Mason, 50 and recently widowed, returns to Florence, where she and her hometown cousins from Martinsville, Ala., enjoyed a summer's frolic 30 years ago. One of them, Eric, now lives in Italy, and through a pleating of conversations and memories, Spencer reveals a



Spencer: a sense of time, place and filial bonds

complexity of attitudes and relationships. Not the least of them expands the definition of the down-home term kessin' cousins.

All five stories reveal a highly developed sense of time, place and filial bonds. An apparent mismatch between an English-speaking woman and a French-speaking man in Montreal suggests the dislocations of Quebec life. *The Business Venture* is set in Mississippi and strikes a similar note through the unlikely partnership of a white woman and a black man in a dry-cleaning service.

Spencer's sociology and cosmopolitan tastes are not obvious. Geography, class and manners are surfaces that refract the deeper feelings and emerging awarenesses of her characters. Some are confronted with familiar situations. The young woman in the title story learns the truth about her parents' marriage after her mother dies and her father's new wife tactfully but deliberately eliminates traces of her predecessor. The plot of *The Skaters* is complicated and, yes, Jamesian: a disinherited son is helped by his lawyer's wife, whose lover steals the original copy of the damaging will. Spencer is dispassionate about domestic morality but intensely curious about the things people do, the lies they live and the truths they hide. Her stories are graceful, solidly crafted and honest. To say more would be a disservice to her talent and integrity.

—R.Z.S.

## Health & Fitness

### Packing Protection in a Purse

*Condoms are becoming part of a woman's sexual survival kit*

For years sexually active women have taken on the primary responsibility for contraception, mainly by using birth-control pills, diaphragms or IUDs. Now increasing numbers of women are also stocking up on the old-fashioned male condom, both to avoid pregnancy and to protect themselves against rampant sexually transmitted diseases, particularly chlamydia, herpes and AIDS. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a reproductive-health research organization based in Manhattan, reports in a new study that the number of unmarried women making use of condoms almost doubled between 1982 and 1987 to 2.2 million, or about 16% of the sexually active, fertile female population. Says Helen Fairman, 20, a Harvard sophomore: "It's playing Russian roulette not to use them."

Since the AIDS crisis surfaced in the early 1980s, American women have had plenty of reason to encourage their sexual partners to use condoms. U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop calls them "the best protection against AIDS infection right now, barring abstinence." Condom manufacturers have aimed aggressive advertising campaigns at women, emphasizing fear of infection rather than the usual male-oriented message about sexual pleasure. Until recently, women bought only a "small percentage" of condoms; now, an industry spokesman estimates, they represent some 40% of the \$200 million U.S. market. "The 'C' word has come out of the closet," observes Barbara Lippert, a critic for *Adweek* magazine.

Although breaking the bias against condom ads in magazine advertising was rough going at first, the pages of *Ms.*, *Caribbean* and *Mademoiselle*, among others, regularly feature attractive models asking female readers, "Would you buy a condom for this man?" or "Why take your fears to bed?" Purrs one ad: "When you place a new Trojan for Women in his hands, it will show you're thinking about his health too."

The new focus has brought condoms out from under the druggist's counter. Trojan for Women, Mentor, Today sheaths and other brands can be found packaged in pastel-colored boxes in the feminine-hygiene sections of drugstores, supermarkets and convenience stores. One 27-year-old New Jersey executive, who admits to a "private blush" as



Buying safer sex: browsing at a Los Angeles convenience store

*Should birth control and disease prevention be a woman's job?*

she bought her first box of condoms, appreciates the new openness. "They weren't at the counter," she says. "I could comparison shop." Mentor Corp., based in Santa Barbara, Calif., helped crack the women's market in 1986 with the slogan "Smart Sex in the '80s." Says Christopher Conway, head of the firm: "We've found what women want is facts, not

glowing, sex-is-wonderful advertising."

Health-care professionals applaud the feminization of the condom, though they warn it is not 100% effective in preventing either pregnancy or sexual diseases. Declares Dr. David Grimes, a

professor at the University of Southern California School of Medicine: "Women's health is much too important to subcontract out to men." Still, cautions Dr. Eric Berger of the American Council on Science and Health in New York City, "if a condom is being touted as something that prevents AIDS transmission, its use alone is not enough."

Though researchers express surprise that more women are not buying condoms for protection, some women are concerned that responsibility for contraception and disease prevention is increasingly falling to them alone. "Let men take their half of the responsibility," says Janet Weintraub, 30, a New York City lawyer. Even so, as the epidemic spread of sexual diseases con-

tinues, more and more women are acknowledging that the only certain way to know that protection will be available when desired is to provide it themselves. Says Lisa Baroni, a 20-year-old college student: "Better for a woman to have a condom in her hand than for her to hope that he has one."

—By Dick Thompson.

Reported by Andrea Sachs/New York

### A New Alternative

Current female interest in male condoms has focused attention on an entirely different product: a condom that women can wear. The new device consists of a soft, loose-fitting polyurethane sheath and two diaphragm-like, flexible rings. It is inserted like a tampon and protects the inside of the vagina, with the inner ring covering the cervix and the other remaining outside. The product, known so far only as WPC-333, offers several advantages over the traditional male condom. Women can insert it themselves before sex, and polyurethane is touted as being much stronger than latex. Some critics are concerned that the outer ring of the condom could be pushed up into the vagina and cause a loss of protection. But Colleen, a 28-year-old attorney in suburban Philadelphia who is using the WPC-333, says, "It works like a charm."

One hundred couples in America, along with 400 couples in Denmark and Britain, have tested the female condom for safety, comfort and effectiveness. If the device meets federal Food and Drug Administration standards, the WPC-333 could be on the market in early 1989. The manufacturer, Wisconsin Pharmaceutical of Jackson, Wis., expects the device to be sold over the counter, unlike the pill and the diaphragm, which both require a prescription. Says Chemist Mary Ann Leeper, head of the team that is developing the condom for the U.S. market: "It broadens the armamentarium for society today to help prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases."



Next: female condom



## "UNITY"

My entry in the National Student Art Contest

Utah State University

Instructor: Glen Edwards

Logan, Utah



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This message contributed to the U.S. Olympic Committee by TIME Magazine



# Science

## Was Sir Isaac All Wet?

Physicists stalk the elusive "fifth force" on a Greenland glacier

As every physics student learns, there are four known forces of nature: gravity, electromagnetism, a "strong" force that binds atomic nuclei and a "weak" one that governs certain types of radioactive decay. Last week researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory announced that they may have found the best evidence yet for a hypothetical, elusive "fifth force." If confirmed, their findings could mean that Sir Isaac Newton's famous inverse-square law of gravity is in danger of losing the exalted position it has held for three centuries. "It's like saying Mom and apple pie's no good anymore," admits the leader of the gravity project, Geophysicist Mark Ander. "You just don't do that lightly."

The physicists reached their conclusion as the result of an experiment conducted in Greenland last summer. They lowered a supersensitive gravity meter into a mile-deep hole bored in glacial ice—chosen because its density is more uniform than that of rock—and monitored the gravitational pull as the meter descended. What occurred was startling: the expected increase in gravitational force predicted by Newton was there, but it got stronger faster than expected. Either something was enhancing the force of gravity or the researchers had come

Newton's law holds that gravitational pull increases in inverse proportion to the square of the distance between two bodies.



Theorist Newton pondering the apple's fall  
Blissfully unaware of all the controversy.

upon a heretofore unknown, far more complex working of gravity itself. Or, just possibly, they had made a mistake.

The fifth force, if that is what it is, has been a source of debate among physicists since its existence was suggested in 1981 by Australian mineshaft experiments. Five years later, Purdue University Phys-

ics Professor Ephraim Fischbach measured a weak force he called "hypercharge" and theorized that it caused objects of different composition to fall at different rates. Since Fischbach's finding, as many as 45 experiments have sprung up in search of the mystery force, and so far each has served only to confound rather than clarify the issue.

In some, for example, gravity appears to be enhanced, while in others it seems to be counteracted. Moreover, findings from a U.S. Air Force gravity study were even interpreted by some scientists as evidence of a "sixth force." But if the existence of an additional force was proved, scientists would have to readjust their calculations of gravitational force. "It's like something completely out of left field," notes Los Alamos Physicist Terry Goldman. "You don't know quite what to do with it."

Jim Thomas, a physicist at the California Institute of Technology, praises the technical precision of Ander's experiment, but cautions that measuring gravity in holes is inexact at best. He points out, for example, that an aberration in the earth's crust might have caused the unusual measurements. "What we're really talking about is the possible modification of gravity, which is the fourth force," adds Thomas. Even Ander stresses that rigorous confirmation is needed before he accepts the results of his Greenland experiment. Says he: "You keep saying to yourself, 'Gee, I've gotta be wrong—Newton certainly can't be wrong.'"

—By John Langone.  
Reported by J. Madeleine Nash/Chicago and Dennis Wyss/San Francisco

## Cosmic Puzzle

For years astronomers have scanned the heavens beyond the solar system in search of other planets. If they exist—and evidence is rapidly accumulating that they do—the possibility greatly increases that some of the planets may be similar to the earth. U.S. and Canadian astronomers last week reported tantalizing discoveries that strengthened that likelihood.

The U.S. team, led by David Latham of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., found evidence of what might be a gigantic planet 20 times as large as Jupiter orbiting a star 550 trillion miles away. The Canadians reported nine stars with

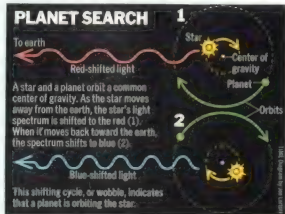
possible planets within 588 trillion miles of earth; they calculated that one of them was about the size of Jupiter.

Because the suspected planets are lost in the glare of

the stars they orbit, they could not actually be seen. Instead, the astronomers analyzed the shifts of light in the spectrum associated with a star as it moves. A shift toward red means the source is

moving away from the observer, toward blue that it is moving toward him. By carefully measuring these color shifts, astronomers detected a characteristic wobble in the motion of the stars that could be caused by the gravitational pull of a nearby orbiting body.

The purported sightings of new planets have generated a good deal of excitement. Latham's, especially, seemed stronger than the others because it was confirmed independently. In this case by a European team in Geneva that had been observing the same star. But the "alleged planet," says Latham, is "hotter than an oven" and has a noxious, gaseous atmosphere. Says he: "This is not a place you would look for life."



## On the Road to Utopia

**TUCKER: THE MAN AND HIS DREAM**  
Directed by Francis Ford Coppola  
Screenplay by Arnold Schulman  
and David Seidler

**T**hey meet with the *Spruce Goose* looming dramatically behind them—two legends from the lunatic fringe of American capitalism. Howard Hughes (Dean Stockwell, in another of his sharply incised cameos) gestures toward history's largest airplane. "They say it can't fly," he intently whispers. "but that's not the point." We in the audience laugh, poor conventional souls that we are, brought up to believe the goal of invention is not self-satisfaction but marketability and, just possibly, the chance to improve mankind's general welfare. How boring!

Preston Tucker (Jeff Bridges, in the performance of his life) knows better. He just nods sober agreement with Hughes. He is in the process of creating a utopian automobile that will get no further off the ground, commercially speaking, than the *Goose* did. But who cares? He is not in the business of building empires; he is in the business of building dreams. And for him, as for Hughes, it is necessary to reproduce his fancy only once in reality to achieve fulfillment. Indeed, after seeing Francis Coppola's marvelous *Tucker*, one believes that if the inventor had been forced to replicate his car endlessly on a production line, promote it and warrant it and tweak it around to create a little novelty each new model year, Tucker might have ended up running on empty, one of those corporate windbags booming the virtues of an individualism he has long since mislaid.

Failure rescued Tucker from that dismal fate. He has passed into popular his-



Moment of triumph: the Tuckers (Allen, Bridges) celebrate at the unveiling

tory as a more interesting figure, at once heroic and cautionary: the little guy who dared to buck the big guys and got squished in the process. It is easy to see why he appealed to Coppola, who has been trying to put Tucker's story on the screen for something like a decade. It is not just simply that as a child Coppola was knocked out by a glimpse of the Tucker Torpedo at an auto show in the late '40s. It is rather that he too is a merchant of slightly skewed dreams, a tilter at his industry's conventional wisdom and a man who is himself a typical American genius, half visionary, half humbug.

His movie is powered by the director's sense of kinship with his protagonist. Indeed, it is possible that if Coppola had been able to make this picture when he wanted to, he and his audience would

have been spared much painful groping. For since 1974, when he released *The Godfather, Part II* and *The Conversation* almost simultaneously, he has been a stylist in search of a subject. Even in the midst of a mess like *The Cotton Club* (1984), he was capable of striking stunning imagery, bold intensifications of reality that lodged permanently in one's movie memory. But the narratives carrying them did not seem to engage his emotions fully. Coppola was a director for hire to his own ego, and his personal drama, mostly involving multiple brushes with bankruptcy, was more dramatic than anything he placed on the screen.

In order finally to make *Tucker*, he formed a partnership with his sometime protégé, George Lucas, a producer gifted in what the director lacks: story sense and



### Car of Tomorrow

In 1947 Preston Tucker proclaimed it "The car of tomorrow—today!" The Tucker seated six adults and could cruise at 100 m.p.h. with its air-cooled rear engine. It boasted innovations that later became Detroit standards: disk brakes, a padded dashboard and curiosities such as a pop-out windshield and a crash compartment. (Preston's idea for seat belts was nixed by his com-

pany's board.) Sticker price: \$2,450.

Only 51 Tuckers were produced. Five have been destroyed; the other 46 are still roadworthy and sell for up to \$100,000. Francis Coppola has two; so has George Lucas. Owners admit the car's design flaws (the suspension system, a sticky transmission) but wouldn't trade it for a Lamborghini. Says Owner Curtis Foester: "It's my idea of what a car ought to be." That's the Tucker—a car for yesterday, today and tomorrow.

budget sense. The result is a film consistent narratively, confident stylistically and abounds with the quaint quality that animated both the hero and his times, something we used to call pep.

No doubt about it. Tucker was Coppola's kind of guy, a figure no more able to contain himself within the bounds of realism than the director is. Or suitable for representation by realistic means. Tucker was an expressionistic character in search of an auteur. A self-educated backyard inventor, he designed a high-speed armored car that the Army deemed impractical and a gun turret that it learned to love during World War II. Tucker used the prototype of the armored car (according to the film) to make ice-cream runs with his kids. The reputation he gained from the turret was his chief asset in finding backing for the car he decided to make after the war ended.

Unlike the cars turned out by the established manufacturers, the Tucker looked like the vehicle the country had been fighting for, unbehind to the past in design and loaded with unheard-of engineering features that became standard issue years later. And Tucker himself was the kind of citizen for whom the troops had been making the world safe, the maverick entrepreneur whose capital is mostly pluck and luck, making his way upward in a supposedly open society.

To depict Tucker's life with his family and its extension, his closest co-workers (Martin Landau is particularly good as his



A two-Tucker man: Coppola on the set

shadowy chief financial officer). Coppola uses the tones of an old *Saturday Evening Post* illustration, all lamplight glow, Tucker's public life, promoting his dream, looks like an ad from the same magazine, hard-edged, overly bright. But when he confronts the automotive traditionalists in his own organization or the politicians whom the movie

shows endlessly harassing him at Detroit's behest, and when, finally, he is placed on trial for fraud, the film turns paranoid in the manner of the '40s film noir.

The picture derives much of its energy from the surrealist yet unpretentious play of these styles. But not all of it. The script is rich in ambiguous allusions to the sustaining myths of old-fashioned popular fiction and the folklore of capitalism. It neither blandly accepts them nor blithely satirizes them. Bridges' portrayal of Tucker is in the same key. In the largest sense, he is fully, honestly committed to his dream. But there are lovely little moments when we feel his love of hype and con for their own sake, and sense that whatever the outcome of his enterprise, he knows he has already lifted himself to legendary status.

Landau aside, no one else in the cast gets a similar opportunity to assert any complexity. Joan Allen as Tucker's wife Vera particularly suffers in this regard. But that is a small defect in a movie of large virtue. Preston Tucker failed to attain what we are pleased to think of as the American Dream of success: his factory produced only a few dozen cars before it closed. But there is another more common, more potent American Dream, which involves not the invention of products but the invention of self. And this movie, genial and fierce, is proof of Tucker's success in that more basic line. And proof of its sure grip on our imaginations.

—By Richard Schickel

## How Bridges Fights Boredom

Imagine Clark Gable anchoring one of Frank Capra's psychodrama parables of Americana and you get a hint of Jeff Bridges' performance in *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*. The roguish, can-do smile looks welded on. No boardroom backstabbing, no political malfeasance can wipe that salesman's grin off his face. It is the smile of a cockeyed optimist whose tragic flaw is that he refuses to believe anything can go wrong. And it is attached to a mind racing with ideas and a mouth that motors even faster. Bridges' Preston Tucker is a man in perpetual motion—gesticulating, punching walls and embracing people, scampering down his assembly line in pursuit of the perfect car. Like many a Capra hero, he is sworn to fight the big boys who would crush his dream. And if they do... well, heck, he'll just dream on.

Could anyone else play this role with the unforced authority that Bridges, 38, brings to it? Maybe, a decade ago, Jack Nicholson: he was Coppola's choice in 1977, when *Tucker* was on its first drawing board. But Nicholson, or virtually any other actor, would excavate demons of compulsion and desire. The Bridges version is splendidly driven, maniacally uncomplicated. The performance is also true to the prototype. The actor spent hours studying Tucker home movies, on the set, he wore the man's black pearl cuff links. "He's got it all," says Tucker's son John, 57, "in the



Star man: Jeff Bridges

mannerisms and the look. My father was very positive, always thinking of what came next. Jeff captures that."

It is a star-making performance in today's busiest leading-man career. The son of TV icon Lloyd Bridges (*Sea Hunt*) and brother of Actor Beau (*Heart Like a Wheel*), Jeff made his screen debut at age four months. The Los Angeles native rolled through University High and a stint in the Coast Guard Reserve, and didn't decide to make acting a career until he had already appeared in six movies. Since then he has brightened 22 more with his surf's-up amiability and his bursts of flummoxed intensity. He has played a Texas teenager (*The Last Picture Show*) and a down-on-his-heels boxer (*Fat City*), second-string to a big ape (the 1976 *King Kong*), a gentle lover and a sick slasher (he was both in *Jagged Edge*). "I like to mix it up as much as possible," says Bridges. "It lowers my boredom level."

The steadiness of his career is matched at home. Lloyd and Dorothy Bridges celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this October; Jeff and his wife Susan, a housewife turned associate producer, have been together since 1975. They live with their three daughters in Santa Monica and on a ranch in Montana. "What's so terrific about our marriage is Susan's support of my work," Bridges says. "Her name should be up in the credits along with mine." After *Tucker*, Susan may be demanding an even bigger screen credit. The movie's most reliable leading man is about to become a white-hot Hollywood star.

—By Richard Corliss. Reported by Jeanne McDowell/Los Angeles

# Education



An elegance of dons: Oxford professors parade before conferring degrees

## You're Fired, Mr. Chips

*Draconian reforms rock Britain's schools and universities*

Not for at least a generation had any major Western nation made such a drastic change in its entire educational system. Out of patience with a structure it views as rambling and inept, the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has pushed through Parliament a reform bill that will radically change the way Britain educates its young. Among other things, the new law wipes out tenure for university professors appointed or promoted after November 1987; puts control of financing higher education under a pair of powerful new government-appointed funding councils; imposes a back-to-basics curriculum for publicly funded elementary and secondary schools; and allows parents a greater say regarding which school their children will attend.

Sponsors of the great Education Reform Bill, dubbed GERBIL, believe it has come not a second too soon. Sounding much like U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett critiquing his own domain, British Education Secretary Kenneth Baker asserts that "the past 30 years' curriculum development has been too free-form, everyone doing their own thing. I sense a yearning for a more explicit framework." As for Britain's colleges and universities, says George Walden, Conservative M.P. and former Minister of Higher Education: "The higher-education interests were simply incapable of reforming themselves, and the government has had to take a hand."

GERBIL's opponents, mainly from the faculties of Britain's 47 universities and their allies in Parliament, have condemned the bill as a "recipe for disaster." The evidence, however, indicates that

British education does need a powerful cure—if not necessarily the medicine prescribed. Some of the ailments mirror those that beset American education. For example, a new report by Britain's Inspectors of Schools condemns 1,000 of England's 4,000 secondary schools as "unsatisfactory." Critics lay the blame on poor teaching and a grab-bag curriculum that has strayed from the three Rs and from Britain's cultural heritage. Moreover, British higher education badly needs additional funding, even though annual government-aid grants to students have spiraled to \$1.3 billion. "Students can no longer be sure



"Mr. Chips" on film: Peter O'Toole

Scholars fear a monetarist view of learning.

they will have enough to live on," reported the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. "The present system of student support has broken down."

These educational quandaries are especially troubling to Britain's universities, which have stood for centuries as a world standard. Most Americans still hold a romantic image of British education as a kind of academic nirvana peopled by elegantly robed Oxbridge dons and uniformed Etonian schoolboys learning Latin verses under a benevolent Mr. Chips. But the unhappy fact is that over the past decade, the cost-conscious Thatcher government, which supplies 71% of all university funding (totaling \$4.2 billion a year), has kept such a tight rein on budgets that many institutions can barely operate. Oxford is dipping into reserves to avoid a deficit on its \$188 million budget and has enough money to fill only 25 of 122 vacant teaching positions. Among the posts that will be unoccupied in 1989 are a pair of prestigious Regius chairs, one in Greek and the other in modern history, set up by British kings hundreds of years ago. They may remain empty for more than a year. Less lofty positions are simply being abolished.

"Oxford is beginning to seem like a place under siege," notes Novelist A.N. Wilson. He might have said the same for all British universities. Low salaries, shrinking research facilities and the grim general outlook have driven thousands of British academics into industry or overseas teaching positions.

Government funding officials are considering the closure of one-third of all university physics and chemistry departments. Six philosophy departments and seven earth-science departments are shutting down. The University of Edinburgh's top Soviet military expert is barely hanging on, having accepted an annual pay cut from \$42,750 to \$10,260—and the assurance that he can keep his research collection there. "The university is short \$6 million," he says. "Someone's got to go."

In Wales last year, the whole of the University College at Cardiff nearly went into bankruptcy and was saved by an emergency infusion of government cash that may not be there next time. To help head off any such crisis of its own, Oxford will launch a fund-raising campaign next October—after getting some consulting help from Harvard and Princeton.

Ominously, bright young scholars are not coming into the system: in all of Britain, only six university historians are under 30. "It's a failure to recruit a whole generation or two of talent," says Patrick Collinson, professor of modern history at the University of Sheffield. "And those generations will have been lost."

Education Secretary Baker and other Conservatives insist that GERBIL's tough provisions can in fact rejuvenate the system. The act's advocates believe tenure



Debra Baker,  
Newsmaker

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## Law

# A Judge Is Judged—and Impeached

*Acquitted in court, a federal jurist runs afoul of Congress*

denial and early pensioning of redundant older faculty will lop off academic deadwood, thus freeing money to reward universities that focus on the government's priority fields. Specifically, by 1990 the Thatcher government wants 35% more science graduates and 25% more engineers than in 1980. These, say government officials, are the skills that Britain requires to compete in international markets.

This monetarist view of learning is what worries scholars most. The Universities Funding Council, to be appointed by Baker, will be empowered to make grants subject to certain undefined "terms and conditions"—a phrase that academics fear may portend industry-style contracting. And abolishing tenure, says Paul Cottrell of the Association of University Teachers, "will make academics easier to sack." The ultimate result, he adds, will be to make it "more difficult to protect their academic freedom."

Despite some mitigating language crammed at the last moment into the bill's 238 clauses, some scholars fear that they may be forced to abandon innovative research to comply with government priorities. "Universities will no longer be autonomous corporations of scholars but servants of the government," says Elie Kedourie, professor of politics at the University of London. He adds scornfully, "It's really quite absurd for the government to think you can treat a university like a factory."

**R**eactions to GERBIL at lower levels, though mixed, are considerably more favorable. Some condemn the English-math-science emphasis of the required curriculum as a reincarnation of rigid 19th century pedagogy. Others fear that granting parents the right to pick their children's school will exacerbate white flight from racially mixed districts, as has been the case in the U.S. Others, however, cheer the freedom of choice and welcome the return to more structure in the classroom. Says Peter Dawson, general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers: "We need the Baker revolution." Head Teacher Graham Leon-Smith comments, "The final result will mean we have a much more coherent and probably much more effective educational system."

The country's 29 polytechnic schools and 346 colleges, generally analogous to U.S. community colleges, also tend to favor GERBIL, because many of the schools will now be subsidized by government grants. This will rid them, essentially, of having to battle phantoms of conflicting local politicians for money. But among university deans and dons, GERBIL has provided much trepidation and little to cheer about. Says Paul Cottrell: "Now what we need to do is fight very hard to retain what autonomy we have left. We'll use the courts if necessary." Such a battle would prove intriguing, since the highest court in Britain is the House of Lords in Parliament. And Parliament has already spoken. —By Ezra Bowen. Reported by Peter Shaw/London

**T**he U.S. Constitution directs that federal judges "shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour." Last week the House of Representatives concluded that the behavior of one of those jurists, U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings of Miami, was not good enough. By a lopsided vote of 413 to 3, the chamber approved 17 articles of impeachment against him. The main accusation: Hastings conspired to



Judge Alcee Hastings in his chambers

*Senators will now decide whether he stays.*

obtain a \$150,000 bribe in exchange for granting leniency to two convicted racketeers. The House action puts Hastings, 51, in a very select circle. He becomes only the twelfth judge, and the first black, in U.S. history to be impeached. He is also the first judge to be subjected to the procedure after acquittal in a criminal trial.

Hastings promptly branded the House action a "disgrace" and a "manifestation of institutional ignorance." From the beginning, and ever more vociferously since his acquittal in 1983, the liberal judge has professed innocence and insisted that race and politics were the prime motivations of his accusers. Because of his sentencing decisions, the Carter appointee has sometimes been labeled a "defendant's judge." In the early 1980s he issued rulings favoring Haitian refugees seeking to remain in the U.S.

When the Judicial Conference of the U.S. recommended that the House consider impeachment last year, the Congressional Black Caucus maneuvered to have the matter placed in the hands of a

judiciary subcommittee headed by black Congressman John Conyers. Conyers began as an avowed Hastings sympathizer. But as the hearings unfolded, he says, "the totality of the evidence began to pile up." Last week Conyers drew a standing ovation from the House floor as he pressed his colleagues to vote for impeachment. The judge "has failed to measure up," the Michigan Democrat declared. Voting in favor of impeachment was a painful task for the civil rights coalition in the House. The dissenters also shared the anxiety. Said California Congressman Mervyn Dymally of his negative vote: "In the final analysis I wanted to be able to sleep. I just had to go by the [1983] jury decision."

Hastings' problems stem from his longtime friendship with William Borders, a prominent Washington attorney, who was convicted in a separate trial in 1982. After learning from an informer that Borders claimed to be a conduit for bribes to Hastings, the FBI commissioned a retired agent to pose as one of two brothers convicted of racketeering in the judge's courtroom. The impersonator struck a deal with Borders. In exchange for \$150,000, Borders would get Hastings to reduce the brothers' punishment. Two meetings and a cryptic wiretapped phone conversation ensued between Hastings and Borders, followed by an order from the judge that \$845,000 in confiscated funds be returned to the brothers. Hastings counters, however, that his ruling was dictated by two appellate-court decisions, rather than the Borders deal, of which he claims to know nothing. None of the bribe money has ever been traced to Hastings' pockets, and the evidence against him is circumstantial.

The judge's fight for his \$89,500-a-year job will now be decided in the Senate, where it will take a two-thirds vote to oust him. The politically astute Hastings will be arguing the case of his career. Already he is toning down his charges of racism and stressing instead his assertion of innocence and the issue of fairness. He may try to convince the Senators of his claim that the proceedings smack of double jeopardy. He can also be expected to underline the fact that the last federal judge to be removed by the Senate, Harry Claiborne of Las Vegas, in 1986, had previously been convicted of tax fraud by a criminal court. But in one unexpected sense, Hastings will find himself at the center of a stage that he has long wanted to play on: in 1970 he ran unsuccessfully for election to the U.S. Senate.

—By Alain L. Sanders.  
Reported by Ted Gup and Steven Holmes/  
Washington



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## The Sad Plight of Fall Schedules

*As the writers' strike ends, the networks face a late season*

Critics have likened TV watching to drug addiction. But as the big three networks have learned to their discomfort, viewing—at least of particular programs or channels—is a habit considerably easier to kick than cocaine or heroin. That is why the rejoicing over last week's settlement of a 150-day strike by the Writers Guild of America was quickly tempered by caution. For the networks, their audiences and the writers themselves, the battle may be over but its effects will linger for months, perhaps years, to come.

The last time striking Hollywood writers disrupted the start of the fall season, in 1981, they delayed new programs on ABC, NBC and CBS by as little as two weeks. Yet that hiatus probably contributed to the networks' combined loss of 4% of the total viewing audience compared with the fourth quarter of the previous year. The drop proved more than temporary: as cable and independent stations have boomed, the big three's share of prime-time viewing has dropped from 90% at the start of the decade to just 70% in the season that ended last April.

This year's rancorous strike has all but eliminated a normal fall TV season, thus threatening to reduce the networks' audience even further. The writers are expected to return to work this week, having won partial concessions on the two key economic issues—their share of sales abroad and in U.S. syndicated reruns—plus contract language that may enhance their creative control when scripts are being readied for production or when they languish unmade. But even with the typewriters and word processors clattering again, most returning series will need at least six to eight weeks to gear up before shooting starts; new shows may require more. Because editing and other post-filming tasks also take time, returning series may trickle in through November, and new-series debuts could bump up against the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas holiday period, when viewing lags and seasonal specials are the norm. At least some "fall" premieres may arrive in the January slot custom-

arily given to midseason replacements.

Yet as ABC Entertainment President Brandon Stoddard noted last week, the autumn may not be a "total disaster" for audiences. Olympics coverage and baseball play-offs typically overshadow even full-fledged competition, so rival network executives may be just as happy not to have to expose fragile newcomers until later and viewers may not mind what looks to be a glut of reruns. The Olympics will enable NBC to showcase commercials for its roster of upcoming series. ABC has assigned that promotional role, among others, to the first 18 hours of *War and Remembrance*, a \$105 million adaptation of Herman Wouk's World War II novel.

Originally scheduled for February, it was already in production before the strike began and in the absence of other strong programs was moved up to the key ratings month of November, when local-station ad rates are set. A few less grandiose series and made-for-TV movies have been stockpiled, are being made from prestrike scripts, or, as in the case of NBC's *ALF* and *The Cosby Show*, were advanced by separate early deals between the producers and the Writers Guild. CBS, which otherwise had little in reserve, hoarded fresh episodes of *Murder, She Wrote*, and this week starts new installments of *The Cavanaughs*, starring Bernard Hughes and Christine Ebersole.

To round out the 22 hours of weekly prime time, however, frantic programmers have been examining options ranging from the presumably uncommon (an hourlong mid-evening newscast) to the self-satirizing, such as remakes of *Mission: Impossible* and *The Hardy Boys*

featuring brand-new casts but using the original scripts. Other ideas: foreign imports and more nonfiction and magazine shows. Viewers seeking more attractive alternatives will find cable outlets such as Showtime/The Movie Channel and Home Box Office larding attractive programs into fall weeks, hoping they can lure new subscribers. The syndicators of Phil Donahue's talk show are touting additional installments for prime time.

While the strike has been devastating to countless workers in show business and related industries, in the short run its impact could actually boost network profits. Advance sales of prime-time commercial slots are, unexpectedly, even stronger than last year's, while the cost of acquiring programs may be temporarily lower. Reruns are cheaper than first-time shows, reality-based programs cheaper than fiction, and foreign-made shows often cheaper than U.S. products.

Some executives speculate that the apparent disaster could turn into a valuable laboratory for finding long-run solutions to the networks' financial bind. Forced to experiment with potentially less expensive ways of filling prime time, the networks may discover methods that will last far longer than the strike. Today's stopgap measures may become tomorrow's programming trends. Whether that benefits the viewer remains to be seen.

—By William A. Henry III,  
Reported by Jeanne McDowell/  
Los Angeles



*War and Remembrance: ABC's strategic ace for November*



*Oasis of fresh shows: Ebersole and Hughes in The Cavanaughs*

*By hoarding and deals, the big three get a jump on a delayed season.*





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